



Despite the left rhetoric there is little support for Owen Smith >>Page 4

CAN THE LABOUR RIGHT BE BEATEN?

**BRAZIL'S EVICTION
OLYMPIC GAMES**

>>Pages 14&15



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THOUSANDS RALLY FOR CORBYN



JEREMY CORBYN addressing over 3,000 people in Hull last week

PICTURE: PA

WHO SAYS WE CAN'T BEAT THE TORIES

THERE'S A mood for change—and socialist ideas. That's the message from the huge rallies for Jeremy Corbyn.

Around 10,000 people gathered to hear Corbyn in Liverpool, 3,000 in Hull, 2,200 in Leeds—and 350 in Liskeard, Cornwall, to hear John McDonnell.

We need to back Corbyn, and to push for more resistance to austerity and racism.

One chance to do that is the demonstration at the Tory Party conference in Birmingham on Sunday 2 October, called by the People's Assembly. It's brilliant to see so many enthused by a radical message.

Let's make sure it leads to more of a fight against the Tories.

ANTI-RACISM

Migrant workers fight back—and show they can win

STRIKING MIGRANT workers have won equal pay from bosses at Esso's Fawley oil refinery near Southampton.

The mainly Italian and Bulgarian migrants have shown how to unite the workforce. Campaigners have also targeted Byron burger chain in London, after migrant workers were raided there.

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STRIKE



The fight is on against North Sea oil bosses

OFFSHORE OIL and gas rigs are remote, hostile environments.

Some in the North Sea are huge installations with up to 200 people. It's big business with 24-hour production.

But workers are fighting back with strikes against pay cuts and other attacks.

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RESISTANCE

The 2011 rioters were rising up against injustice

RIOTS SWEEPED Britain five years ago this month after police killed Mark Duggan in north London.

One activist told Socialist Worker that the riots spread because, "This was about people wanting to hurt the police after years of violence."

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THE THINGS THEY SAY

'The radical and corrosive Left retains a stranglehold on our wider culture'

Christopher Hart whining in the Daily Mail newspaper

'The sort of cafes where they serve nuclear-free South African peace crisps'

Jeremy Clarkson doesn't like Owen Smith supporters

'Can i count on your support'

Owen Smith campaign text messages sent between midnight and 5am on Sunday

'You had forgotten to pay for parking as you were distracted that we had a new and unelected prime minister'

Response to an advisor to George Osborne's attempt to not pay a parking fine, the appeal was dismissed

'Think about leaving'

Daily Mail columnist Sarah Vine advises refugees

'Greasy little squirt'

Samantha Watson, Philip Green's personal assistant, on the former BHS boss



Cameron's cronyism is a fitting legacy for pig man

DAVID CAMERON'S legacy is as it should be. A load of honours for his mates.

First knight the money men. Ian Taylor's firm Vitol Oil has faced questions over tax, an oil deal with Libyan rebels and links to a Serbian warlord.

Andrew Cook, chair of the engineering firm William Cook, lent Cameron his private plane in the run-up to the 2010 general election.

He lobbied the coalition government to withdraw a promised £80 million loan to Sheffield Forgemasters, a rival steel firm.

Philip Hammond, the former foreign secretary, and the former Europe minister David Lidington are in line to become knights commander of the order of St Michael and St George (KCMG).

As is Hugo Swire, who was also a minister in the Foreign Office.

Michael Fallon, who surprised many by campaigning for "remain", has been nominated for a knight commander of the Order of the Bath.

George Gideon Oliver Osborne is set

honour will allow him to put the initials CH after his name.

Which makes all the cuts worthwhile.

Cameron is also poised to create two dames.

Former cabinet minister Caroline Spelman and Arabella Warburton, chief of staff to former prime minister Sir John Major.

Osborne's closest aide, Thea Rogers, is set to receive an OBE. Some 24 members of Cameron's Downing Street cabal are to be honoured.

They include his wife Samantha's stylist, Isabel Spearman, who has been nominated for an OBE.

There are 20 serving or former special advisers from Cameron's government along with two of the former prime minister's official drivers.

In one of his last acts as prime minister Cameron handed aides a £283,000 golden goodbye against the advice of lawyers and one of Britain's top civil servants.

No pigs or any in the porcine production industry seem to be nominated.

SIR GEORGE Gideon Oliver Osborne CH

to become a companion of honour. The gong is reserved for 65 people who have given "nationally important service".

As the heir to a baronetcy, the bungling baron will already inherit the title "Sir". But becoming a companion of

ISLAMOPHOBIA TOOK a bizarre twist last week when a cartoon was revealed to have shown a character stepping on a page from the Koran. The Fireman Sam episode, called Troubled Waters, was shown in June. It shows a character, Elvis, slipping on some sheets of paper—one of which appears to be a page from the Koran. Why it was there is still unclear.



THE FOUNDER of a Bradford free school and two staff have been found guilty of fraudulently obtaining around £150,000 from government grants.

Sajid Hussain Raza, Shabana Hussain, and Daud Khan, were convicted at Leeds Crown Court of making payments in 2011 into their own bank accounts.

Ukip leadership turn farce into bigger farce

UKIP'S WOES continue as it flails around in the hunt for a new leader.

Former deputy chair Suzanne Evans attacked the party as a "rugby club on tour" last week.

She said a new leader had to represent the "common sense centre ground" instead of being "Nigel Farage Mark II".

She complained that the party's national executive committee

"deliberate in secret and once they're in place, no matter what they do, we can't get rid of them".

Meanwhile, opinion polls show Ukip's support has fallen to the low teens since the European Union referendum.

Director of political research at polling firm ICM, Martin Boon, said, "The general trend is that they are losing some supporters."

UKIP HAS launched a summer sale. Bargains galore are to be had for Troublemaker readers.

A "Nigel says no" T-shirt is a snip at £2. Polyester Ties £3 and silk ones £12. A vote leave badge is 10p.



£12

Fox's military charity for holding parties

Troublemaker veteran Tory minister Liam Fox launched Give Us Time, eight months after he resigned in disgrace from his role as defence secretary.

Give Us Time promised free holiday accommodation to military veterans.

It scored a financial boost in November 2014, when it received a £500,000 grant from the government.

At the time it had organised 40 trips worth £4,405.

In total it

has provided 129 weeks worth of accommodation to troops. Fox and one of the charity's donors used resources to fund a trip to Bulgaria for two of the MP's office staff in February last year. Unlike the soldiers, the charity paid their airfares.

It has held a number of plush parties at fancy spots. Its first was in 2013 and attended by cabinet ministers, high society figures and senior military chiefs in dress uniforms.

Liam Fox and friends

Coulson back on the news

CHANNEL 4 News' "Head Of Communications" is Hayley Barlow. Barlow's CV includes more than eleven and a half years as Head of PR at the News of the World newspaper.

And coincidentally last week she tweeted, "In an authored film on tonight's [Channel 4 News], former No 10 spin doctor Andy Coulson on Brexit, the past and the future".

Coulson/Chappell is a PR company run by Henry Chappell and bankrolled by Matthew Freud.

They have been a bit stuck for clients so have been calling in old favours to get Coulson on the telly a bit more.

TOFF OF THE WEEK

Lord Anthony Grabiner

●A barrister elevated to the peerage by Tony Blair and now Master of Clare College, Cambridge.

●According to an MPs' report on the sale of BHS, Grabiner, as the chair of Philip Green's parent company, took a "remarkably docile attitude".

●For a "considerable salary", he was "content to provide a veneer of establishment credibility."

●Grabiner was recently employed by the Bank of England to advise on ethical wrongdoing.

Bullying cop of the week

ANOTHER WEEK another cop misbehaving. This time it's Ian Mangham from Loughton. Mangham began a relationship with a woman who had reported her ex-husband to cops for domestic violence.

After the woman ended their relationship, he took revenge by distributing fake leaflets advertising her as a prostitute. They included her full name, contact number and home address. He denied harassment but was jailed for 16 weeks in May.

Last week he was finally sacked.

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Bosses' attack on safety aims to smash rail unions

by RAYMIE KIERNAN

WORKERS IN Scotland, London and the south east of England are stepping up their strikes to resist bosses' plans to undermine safety on the railways.

RMT union train guards oppose the extension of driver only operation (DOO). DOO would get rid of guards and transfer their safety responsibilities onto train drivers.

At Scotrail and Govia Thameslink Railway (GTR) long-running disputes over DOO are about to escalate.

The RMT has called another five days of strikes by Scotrail guards beginning with a two-day strike starting on Sunday. A busy Edinburgh Festival will put bosses under pressure.

Guards on Southern, part of GTR, are set to begin a five-day strike on Monday of next week.

Brighton train guard and RMT rep Simon told Socialist Worker the attack is "government sponsored". He said, "The aim of extending DOO is to smash the rail unions."

Ministers in Westminster and Edinburgh are, at best, staying silent about the attack or misleading the public. At worst, public officials are directing the assault.

The director of passenger services at the Department for Transport (DfT) publicly predicted "punch ups" with unions in the south east.

The DfT pays GTR to run Southern and other lines.

Timetable

The firm was allowed to bring in a new timetable that cut 350 trains a day to provide a "greater level of certainty".

But train despatcher Ricky told Socialist Worker, "The timetable is collapsing around them. It's just one big mess from top to bottom."

Southern claims it doesn't have



RMT LEADER Mick Cash joined Scotrail guards picketing last Sunday in Glasgow

PICTURE: RMT

Battle stations

Over 1,000 GTR station staff are balloting over cuts and reorganisation.

Bosses justify cuts by saying that 70 percent of passengers don't buy tickets in ticket offices.

Yet the other 30 percent make up 98 million journeys a year. And ticket office staff do much more than sell tickets.

enough workers to run trains due to staff sickness.

But Victor, a Southern RMT union rep, said, "They are not employing enough guards or drivers and expect us to work our rest days. People think

twice about doing that because of the way they been treated by them."

Ricky added, "It's all profits, profits, profits with them—that's the problem."

Demonstrations

It is positive that passenger groups have held demonstrations against the company and not blamed the unions.

The Southern crisis has also led to the resignation of Claire Perry, who said she was "often ashamed to be the rail minister".

Extending DOO across Britain's railways is worth up to £350 million to the train operators. But the unions stand in their way.

Anti-union laws have been used to stop GTR drivers' strikes and action short of strike by guards. This week

it looked like Scotrail bosses were at it too. The Scottish National Party government should intervene.

An offer had been made as Socialist Worker went to press.

But many workers felt it was too vague and not enough to suspend action.

The guards can win. The RMT and Aslef unions should bring other Scotrail workers into the fight.

More than 1,000 GTR station staff in the RMT are balloting for strikes (see box). The ballot ends on 16 August. Ricky said, "The logical thing to do is to all go out together."

What's your story?

Email with your ideas
reports@socialistworker.co.uk

Wage falls are worse in Britain

WORKERS IN Britain have suffered the biggest fall in wages of the world's richest countries since the economic crisis began in 2007.

Employment rates in Britain also rose less than they did in some other countries, according to figures from the TUC.

The statistics also show that women in Britain now earn 19.2 percent less than men on average.

Real wages, which take into account inflation, fell by 10.4 percent in Britain between 2007 and 2015.

Greece is the only other country that has seen a drop of the same scale.

Just three out of

29 countries in the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) saw real wages fall—Britain, Greece and Portugal.

Yet workers in Poland saw real wages rise by 23 percent, in Germany by 14 percent and in France by 11 percent over the same period.

Britain's employment rate grew by 0.6 percent—while Germany's grew by 5.1 percent and Poland's by 4.5 percent.

TUC general secretary Frances O'Grady said Britain had seen a "lost decade of income".



IN BRIEF

No more grants for the poorest

THE POOREST young people will no longer be able to apply for student maintenance grants if they want to go to university.

The grants were replaced by loans from Monday of this week.

Students already have to borrow to pay tuition fees.

Crisis is behind ownership drop

HOME OWNERSHIP in England is at its lowest level in 30 years due to low wages and rising house prices.

The Resolution Foundation thinktank found that 64 percent of households own their home—compared to 71 percent in April 2003.

The government should build council housing to deal with the housing crisis.

Payouts row at Southern Trust

SOUTHERN Health NHS Trust paid millions of pounds to firms owned by associates of its chief executive Katrina Percy.

One firm was paid £500,000 without bidding for any contracts. Percy has so far refused to resign.

Cost of poverty is £78 billion

THE EFFECTS of poverty "cost" £78 billion in Britain, not including benefits, according to the Joseph Rowntree Foundation.

The main cost was £29 billion on treating health conditions associated with poverty.

ON THE WEB

Top five hits this week on
www.socialistworker.co.uk

- 1 **Corbyn's surging leadership election campaign leaves Smith floundering**
- 2 **Black Lives Matter activists block central London streets**
- 3 **Video—the failed coup in Turkey**
- 4 **KFC's finger lickin' zero hours lies exposed**
- 5 **Surface tension—the battle against the North Sea oil bosses**

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For details and to register standuptoracism.org.uk

Mass rallies for Corbyn and 'to make the world a better place'

by TOMÁŠ TENGYEL-EVANS

UP TO 10,000 people joined a rally in support of Jeremy Corbyn in Liverpool on Monday night. It was another sign of the growing support behind his campaign to be re-elected leader of the Labour Party.

Thousands of people had also marched and rallied for Corbyn across the North of England last weekend.

Over 2,000 supporters joined the rally in Leeds on Saturday—an even bigger audience than during last year's leadership race.

Colette, a student in Leeds, said, "When Jeremy Corbyn says we have to make the world a better place I believe him. He's had those beliefs forever. It's not a career for him—he represents something exciting to you as a young person."

As 1,600 crammed into the venue, Corbyn had to address an overflow rally of some 600 outside.

Corbyn had just arrived from Hull where some 3,000 people stood in the baking sun to hear him speak.

Grip

The Labour right are going all out to unseat Corbyn with their candidate Owen Smith, because they fear losing their grip on the party.

A march in Newcastle on the same day, with people chanting "Tories out—Corbyn in", showed that many new members see themselves as part of a bigger movement fighting for change. Organisers said that over 1,000 people joined the demonstration.

"Socialism used to be a dirty word, but now they're trying to turn it into a buzzword," Lindsey, a teacher, told Socialist Worker.

She added, "We need more events like this—and get the message out to show more people what Jeremy Corbyn represents." Labour's shadow

BACK STORY

Jeremy Corbyn's popularity as Labour leader has infuriated the right wing of the Labour Party

● A botched coup attempt in June failed to unseat Corbyn

● Tens of thousands have flocked to join Labour to defend him and support his leadership

● The right fear Corbyn could be prime minister—they'd rather undermine him than the Tories

● Corbyn's Labour is now focused on electing a new leader instead of fighting the Tory government

chancellor John McDonnell is building support for Corbyn with a tour on the "new economics".

Some 350 people joined a meeting in Liskeard, Cornwall, last Friday, and hundreds packed a room in Oxford the previous night.

Labour left group Momentum is mobilising members within the Labour Party.

Ben Sellers from Red Labour ran Corbyn's social media campaign last year. He told Socialist Worker, "For Red Labour it's about winning the battle in the Labour Party."

"But we have to mobilise people in the community to break it out from just being about the leadership election."

"If we're going to build a movement it has to involve other people."

Leeds college student Zayba described herself as somewhere between the Green Party and Labour. "I agree with his policies but I don't think Corbyn will get in," she told Socialist Worker. "If he does, he will be overwhelmed."

To avoid that means not compromising with the Labour right and looking to where Corbyn's real strength lies—in the streets and workplaces. That can both bolster Corbyn and help build a movement capable of winning real change.



SUPPORTERS GREET Jeremy Corbyn at a 3,000-strong rally in Hull last Saturday

PICTURE: NEIL TERRY

Little support for Owen Smith at grassroots—despite left rhetoric

by CHARLIE KIMBER

THE LABOUR right's leadership candidate Owen Smith launched his campaign last Wednesday with a concerted effort to present himself as a left winger.

His floundering campaign is desperately trying to grab some members' support and prise away the unions' strong backing for Corbyn.

Smith's speech involved a 20-point plan for the next Labour government.

It included banning zero hours contracts, reinstating the 50p top rate of income tax, increased health and education spending and repealing the Trade Union Act.

Under questioning some of this fell apart—he said that a one-hour contract would be acceptable for workers.

These left wing pledges also fit poorly with Smith's record.

He voted to spend up to £205 billion on Trident nuclear weapons rather than on the NHS or education. He supported



Smith's enthusiastic young supporters

PICTURE: GUY SMALLMAN

academy schools when a Labour government was pushing them, backed a cap on benefits and cuts in overall welfare spending.

Despite the left rhetoric he has little support among grassroots supporters.

At his campaign launch rally in London last Tuesday a 200-strong crowd huddled in the Emmanuel Centre—capacity 1,000.

Then Smith received a cold reception in Liverpool on Saturday, as fewer than 100

people rallied in front of an ice cream van.

Even if Smith was sincere this doesn't explain why he wants to eject Corbyn, who has already proposed most of the policies he now claims to support.

Smith's real agenda was revealed last week.

Asked on the BBC's Newsnight programme whether there are too many migrants living in Britain, he replied, "I think it depends where you are is the truth."

"In some places the way in which we saw a rapid influx in particular of eastern European migrants, definitely caused downward pressure on wages."

"It definitely caused changes to local terms and conditions for some workers in some sectors." Nobody should believe Smith's commitment to taking on the bosses.

And there can be no doubt that as leader he would speedily shift Labour's policy to be much harsher on migrants and refugees.

Who really supports rights at work? John McDonnell

JEREMY CORBYN has pledged to force any company with more than 250 workers to recognise and bargain with a trade union.

He had previously said a Labour government would repeal the Tories' Trade Union Act and launched "Workplace 2020".

This is a forum that was supposed to produce Labour policy on workplace rights ahead of the next general election.

Rights

His announcement was significant, as it was one of Corbyn's first specific proposals on workplace rights.

It was partly in response to leadership challenger Smith tacking left and pledging to repeal the Trade



Shadow chancellor John McDonnell

PICTURE: GUY SMALLMAN

Union Act. Smith had hypocritically tweeted last Wednesday, "Not once have I heard a debate be led by John McDonnell on rights at work."

PCS union members at the National Gallery in London, who were on all-out strike against privatisation last

summer, also hit back.

A statement said, "John McDonnell was at our picket line on day one of our strike and he and Jeremy Corbyn consistently supported us."

"Owen Smith didn't join our picket line at any point or even sign the early day motion against privatisation."

CWU third union to give Corbyn official backing

THE Communication Workers' Union (CWU) officially backed Jeremy Corbyn's re-election as Labour Party leader on Monday of this week.

It became the latest union to give their support, after train drivers' union Aslef and construction workers' union Ucat.

CWU general secretary Dave Ward said, "It's policies like extending the recognition for trade unions which we believe will make



CWU leader Dave Ward

PICTURE: GUY SMALLMAN

a real difference to the working lives of millions. The CWU is proud to support him."

The major union

leaders' backing for Corbyn was key to thwarting the Labour right plotters' attempts to oust him.

Unison, Unite and the GMB—Labour's most powerful affiliated unions—are still to declare who they will support.

Trident renewal, which Unite and GMB supported, has already tested their support for Corbyn.

Every trade unionist must pressure union leaders to give full support to Corbyn.

Branches look to the left

A MAJORITY of Constituency Labour Parties (CLP) have nominated Jeremy Corbyn in the face of bureaucratic manoeuvres by the party machine.

Out of some 650 CLPs 70 have made supporting nominations—57 for Corbyn and seven for Owen Smith.

One Labour member said on Facebook, "In West Ham we backed

desperation. But these bureaucratic tricks are in line with Labour Party standing orders—the way to beat them is by looking outwards to the movement."

That's also how the Labour right produced nominations for Smith across south London CLPs, showing their



Owen Smith is losing

PICTURE: GUY SMALLMAN

Socialist Worker WHAT WE THINK

LABOUR RIGHT HAS NO CLUE ON BEATING TORIES

JEREMY CORBYN'S critics inside the Labour Party have perfected missing the point.

They come in many guises, from the hardened Blairites to a fake "soft left".

Some are even dressing up arguments against having a socialist leader as "socialist".

That's true of Owen Smith, the MP challenging Corbyn after a shameful shadow cabinet coup.

It's also true of Owen Jones, the Guardian newspaper columnist and former "bag carrier" for the Labour left.

He joined the right's chorus last weekend with scathing "questions" for Corbyn supporters.

The script they've perfected goes like this. Socialism means making socialist policies, which means "taking power", which means winning elections.

Corbyn can't do this because he preaches to the choir and can't handle the media.

Being anti-austerity is fine, but being anti-racist or anti-war confuses and alienates people.

Workers have "concerns" about immigration that must be "addressed".

So the argument goes—but it

flies in the face of reality. Corbyn is energising hundreds of thousands who weren't Labour members or even voters.

His detractors' argument rests on a pessimistic and patronising view of working class people.

Years of bosses and politicians squeezing workers and blaming migrants have had an effect.

But arguing that passivity and racism come from below slanders workers and lets politicians off the hook.

Many working class people want to see a fightback and many of them are proudly anti-racist. And those who aren't can be won over.

But the Labour right's politics are about trying to be all things to

all people all the time—so long as it doesn't provoke a fight with the establishment.

It didn't work for Ed Miliband and it can't work for Owen Smith. Labour lost the last election because its right wing policies inspired nobody.

You can't be anti-austerity enough to offer better living standards while being pro-austerity enough to satisfy the Tory press. You can't stop the growth of racist parties while pandering to racism.

What you can do is offer an alternative. Labour isn't in trouble because of Corbyn trying to do that, but because of the forces trying to stop him.

It's no surprise to see Labour dropping in the polls when most of its MPs are focused on attacking their own leader.

The path to a socialist society may be long and hard—and Corbyn himself may not go all the way down it. But there's no shortcut on offer from the snake oil salesmen of electability.

Instead we need to defend Corbyn and strengthen the struggles in the workplaces and on the streets that are key to winning change.

Corbyn's critics come in many guises from hard Blairites to a fake 'soft left'

THERESA MAY'S FIRST WAR

POLITICIANS HAVE learned nothing from the Chilcot report.

Less than a month after becoming prime minister, Theresa May is embroiled in her first war.

The Pentagon announced on Monday night that US president Barack Obama had given the green light for bombing Isis targets in Sirte, Libya.

The Ministry of Defence (MoD) confirmed that British forces have joined in.

It claimed that British planes

are performing reconnaissance missions only.

But there is evidence that British forces are bombing targets in Benghazi alongside the US, according to air traffic control tapes.

And while the US target in Sirte is Isis, the picture in Benghazi is less clear.

It appears that Western forces, including Britain, are bombing targets for militia general Khalifa Haftar. He claims to be trying to take control of the east of Libya

back from "extremists".

These seem to include forces that are allied to the UN-backed Government of National Accord in the west of Libya, which requested the Western intervention.

British special forces have been fighting, and training troops, in Libya since March.

Western intervention has created the conditions for the civil war that is tearing Libya apart.

Further imperialist intervention by the West will only add to the chaos. Socialists must oppose it.

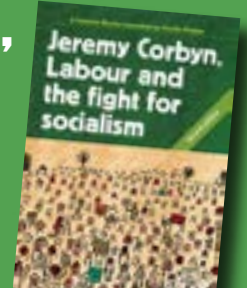
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ANALYSIS

ALEX CALLINICOS



There is no 'lesser evil' in US election

NOW THAT Hillary Clinton has been confirmed as the Democratic Party's presidential candidate the usual arguments are being mobilised to brigade the left behind her. The most important one stresses not the positive qualities of the Democratic candidate but the negative qualities of their Republican opponent.

The theme that the Republican candidate represents a lurch into uncharted right wing territory is an old one.

I can remember it being played to justify voting Democrat to stop Barry Goldwater in 1964, Ronald Reagan in 1980 and George W Bush in 2000.

Of course, there's an obvious riposte—namely that Donald Trump really does represent a lurch into uncharted right wing territory. If one's being cynical, one might say Trump is a gift to the centre left. A particularly idiotic Guardian newspaper columnist tried to use him (and cult leader Charlie Manson) to smear Jeremy Corbyn the other day.

What is true, however, is that Trump's success dramatises how the official US political landscape has been moving steadily rightwards since the 1960s.

But this isn't a reason for voting Clinton. She is a political actor in her own right and so it would be wrong to assimilate her to her husband Bill. Nevertheless, she was an important figure in his presidency between 1993 and 2001.

Bill Clinton played a crucial role in shifting the landscape rightwards by schooling the Democrats to accept the so-called "Reagan revolution". This meant neoliberalism at home and the more aggressive assertion of US power abroad. His administration promoted free market policies globally, savaged the welfare state and made military coercion a tool of diplomacy.

As secretary of state between 2008 and 2013, Hillary Clinton continued this approach. She was more willing to resort to military action than Barack Obama. And the Clintons have made sure they shared in the wealth their policies have promoted.

A recent Financial Times newspaper story reported, "after leaving the White House in 2001 in self-described penury, Mr and Mrs Clinton made close to a quarter of a billion dollars, largely by giving speeches, publishing books and consulting."

Establishment

So Hillary Clinton is a perfect symbol of the establishment against whom both Trump and Bernie Sanders have been leading electoral revolts. Of course Trump, as a billionaire property developer, is very much part of this establishment.

He claims to have used a donation to the Clintons' foundation to make them attend his last wedding—a transaction that nicely sums up the moral qualities of all concerned.

But Trump's portrayal of himself as an outsider isn't pure demagoguery. Since the Second World War the US has dominated global capitalism by constructing an open world economy underpinned by a network of alliances and US military power.

Trump has gained support among some poorer people—he has a 39 per cent lead among white men without college degrees—by questioning this liberal empire.

So he advocates the adoption of protectionist economic policies. He recently said he would only defend the Baltic republics against Russian attack if they had fulfilled their financial "obligations" to Nato. This remark had an apoplectic Economist sputtering that he had "rattled the strongest military alliance the world has ever seen".

Hillary Clinton, by contrast, has been a loyal servant of this empire. This makes her the establishment candidate in this election. Hence many mainstream Republican figures are either silent, or are beginning to back her. None of this alters the fact that Trump is a repellent racist and sexist. He's also an opportunist who, in office, would no doubt fall in line with the interests of US imperialism. His vainglorious promises offer no solution to the problems of US society.

Whoever wins the election, the well of bitterness and disillusion among ordinary Americans will continue to grow.

Clinton and Trump are the representatives of a power structure increasingly at odds with large sections of the population. Clinton isn't a "lesser evil" than Trump. Each needs the other to justify their candidacy.

Anti-racists march in Britain and join sit-ins across the US

Black Lives Matter activists prepare for Notting Hill Carnival while sit-ins hit over 60 US cities, writes **Alistair Farrow**

ACTIVISTS ARE continuing to hold Black Lives Matter (BLM) protests in Britain and the US to protest at police racism and violence.

The protests were initially sparked after the police killings of Alton Sterling and Philando Castile in the US last month.

Protesters in the US joined a series of sit-ins in over 60 cities last Sunday. They mobilised hundreds of people.

The sit-ins were a response to police violence and racism. But they also aimed to reclaim public spaces named after Martin Luther King.

One of the organisers, Feminista Jones, told Socialist Worker, "We will continue to rebel against racist tyranny and sanctioned state violence."

Around 100 activists staged a BLM demonstration outside Oxford Circus in central London last Friday.

Organisers described the violent arrest of a young black man in London Bridge station last week.

Arrested

Gary McFarlane explained, "He was having an argument with his girlfriend. But police arrested him because they thought he was stealing her phone."

Protesters marched to the Apple shop in Covent Garden. Apple boss Tim Cook had tweeted that the killings of Alton Sterling and Philando



BLACK LIVES Matter protesters march through London last Friday (above and left)

PICTURES: GUY SMALLMAN



Castile were "senseless".

He added that "justice is still out of reach for many".

Protesters demanded that he stands by his words.

Demonstrator Itamar told Socialist Worker, "I've been impressed by the movement and by black and white people coming together."

"We need unity for the movement to go forward."

The demonstration was loud and undaunted by the heavy police presence, with passers-by joining in.

Clavine from France joined the demo with her children. "I want to show my children you need to fight for something real," she said.

Gibril joined the demonstration as it blocked Regent Street on its way to Covent Garden. He said, "This is the first protest I've been on since university."

After occupying the Apple store protesters marched to Downing Street where they joined an anti-fascist protest (see below).

The BLM demo ended at Parliament Square.

People were positive about the direction the movement is

heading in.

Activists agreed that mobilising for a BLM bloc at Notting Hill Carnival on 29 August is going to be decisive.

- Black Lives Matter UK has called a national day of action for Friday 5 August. Go to Black Lives Matter UK on Facebook and follow #Shutdown on Twitter
- Tottenham Remembers—march against deaths in custody—6 August, 3pm, Broadwater Farm Estate, Tottenham
- Black Lives Matter organising meeting—9 August, 6pm, Dalston Mosque, 9-15 Shackleton Lane, London, E8 2DA

On other pages...

The 2011 riots—an uprising against injustice >>>Page 17

Tiny turnouts for Nazis in Coventry and London

by **SADIE ROBINSON**

ANTI-FASCISTS humiliated Nazis from Britain First in Coventry last Saturday.

Around 20 fascists met miles outside the city after campaigners persuaded a number of venues in the city not to host their event.

Meanwhile over 100 anti-fascists, including trade unionists and other campaigners, held an anti-Nazi protest in Coventry. The protest was called by Unite Against Fascism (UAF).

Fascists were also



On the protest in Coventry

PICTURE: COVENTRY UAF

outnumbered in London last Friday.

Fewer than 40 Nazis gathered at Downing Street—and up to 100 anti-fascists held a counter-protest.

It was later boosted by the arrival of a 100-strong Black Lives Matter protest.

● Nottingham Unite Against Fascism has called a counter-protest to oppose the racist English Defence League (EDL).

The EDL plans to demonstrate in Nottingham on Saturday. A statement from

Nottingham UAF said, "We are opposed to any attempt by the EDL to spread their hatred and division."

It added that the turnouts for EDL protests had shrunk dramatically since it launched in 2009 "due to the committed work of anti-fascists".

The anti-fascist protest is backed by trade unionists, the local People's Assembly, local councillors and Black Lives Matter.

It assembles at 12 noon.

Go to Nottingham UAF on Facebook

May goes nuclear as Tory splits fail to heal

The Tories' U-turn on the dangerous Hinkley Point power plant shows up their divisions, argues **Dave Sewell**

A LAST-MINUTE U-turn on a major infrastructure deal last week dashed any hopes that prime minister Theresa May's coronation would halt the turmoil in the Tory Party.

The Tory government delayed giving the go-ahead to a new nuclear plant at Hinkley Point in Somerset.

The plant is to be built by French state-owned energy firm EDF, financed by Chinese state-owned energy firms and generously subsidised by the British state.

The government pledges to pay EDF a "strike price" of £92.50 a megawatt hour for electricity—twice the going rate—for 35 years.

EDF's board of directors finally endorsed the plan last Thursday. That was meant to be the final hurdle.

Days earlier, chancellor Philip Hammond had reiterated that the project was to go ahead.

But the prime minister's office pulled a high-profile media event and said it would put the proposals under review until the autumn.

EDF boss Jean-Bernard Levy only found out through the internet.

Lord O'Neill, the Treasury minister for infrastructure investment and relations with China, wasn't told either and could now quit.

Labour slammed the "chaos" and the GMB union called it "bewildering and bonkers".

It's a mistake for unions to line up behind the nuclear industry and this plan.

Deadly

It is inherently dangerous and generates waste that remains deadly for millennia.

Socialist Worker is against the project going ahead.

Claims that it is good for the climate do not take into account the emissions associated with construction, waste and decommissioning.

Some tried to turn the fiasco against Labour's leadership.

Rachel Garrick, a leading member of Labour left group Momentum in

BACK STORY

The Tories have delayed giving the go-ahead to a new nuclear power plant at Hinkley Point

● It is to be built by EDF energy, financed by Chinese investments and subsidised by the British government

● Labour has criticised the project's high costs and the GMB union has criticised the delay

● But nuclear power is inherently expensive and dangerous

● Socialist Worker is against the project and nuclear power

Kent, quit over Corbyn's "cheap" and "facile" criticism of the expected deal. Corbyn had accused May of "giving a blank cheque to EDF for a power station that doesn't work".

Labour's position is to have its cake and eat it. It calls for the project to go ahead as long as the eye-watering cost of up to £30 billion is brought down.

Subsidies

This is an outrageous giveaway. But nuclear power requires large upfront investment and can only make a profit through huge subsidies.

EDF risks bankruptcy as the cost of decommissioning France's nuclear fleet looms closer. Gerard Magnin last week became the second EDF executive to resign over the Hinkley Point project.

Lib Dem former coalition ministers now say May was wary all along. Her senior aide Nick Timothy speculates that it could give Chinese firms power "to shut down Britain's energy production at will".

The delay could be a risky attempt to gain leverage with France over Brexit negotiations, or with China over the costs of future plants.

This also follows a delay to the long-awaited decision on London airport expansion in June. The Tories have revealed that they're still too divided to deliver the government the bosses demand.



PROTESTERS MARCH through York city centre

PICTURE: STEWART WILLIS

Yorkshire's largest protest against fracking says stop dirty drilling

by ALISON WILLIS

OVER 2,000 people marched in York last Saturday in Yorkshire's largest demonstration against fracking.

They were protesting against the Tory-run North Yorkshire County Council's decision to allow Third Energy to frack in Ryedale.

Protesters had come from across Yorkshire—and as far afield as Cornwall and London. Simon from West Yorkshire was on his first protest. He told Socialist Worker, "This is such an important issue."

"The people overwhelmingly say no—we'll keep protesting until we win."

Noo from York added, "I'm here because I would vote Green if I could, but I'm only fourteen so I can't vote."

"But I can do this."

To chants of "No fracking anywhere" people marched through the city centre.

Speaker after speaker at the rally echoed the crowd's determination to keep fighting until the dangerous fracking industry is finished for good.

Kim Hunter from Frack Free

Scarborough said, "We won't win by giving the other side the right information."

"They already know about contaminated water and soil and the damage they would do to our health."

"There's only one piece of information they're missing—how much pressure we're prepared to put on them."

"We need to get out on the streets and stay out until fracking is banned."

Don Naylor from the Unison union North West region and the Campaign Against Climate Change urged the crowd to join the campaign.

"Join a union, get them to

affiliate to the Campaign Against Climate Change and promote the solution—one million climate jobs," he said.

Tina Rothery, the Lancashire "nana" being sued for £55,000 by fracker Cuadrilla for direct action, also spoke. "The Tory council was a complete pushover," she said. "But has anybody moved the drill? No!"

"That's because they know whoever moves next will have the full might of the anti-fracking movement on their head."

Organisers were also delighted with the number of passers-by who learned about fracking for the first time, particularly given the government's latest shale gas survey.

It shows that 19 percent of the public are aware of shale gas but "don't really know what it is", while 22 percent still haven't heard of either shale gas or fracking.

Go to **One Million Climate Jobs** for more information climate-change-jobs.org



Activist Tina Rothery



Tug of war in Turkey over coup aftermath

by CHARLIE KIMBER

A BATTLE is taking place in Turkey to decide who will gain in the wake of an attempted military coup last month.

Mass popular mobilisation halted the coup. President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has moved to purge the military. He is also seeking to entrench his power by removing other opponents.

These include dozens of newspapers, television station and radio stations, publishers and some individuals prominent in the workers' movement.

Erdogan has bitterly criticised the US for its concerns about the treatment of the coup plotters while ignoring the hundreds of deaths that were caused by the rising itself.

Reports suggest that up to a third of generals, air chiefs and admirals were directly involved in the coup attempt. The remainder of the upper ranks did nothing to resist it. Such forces are the enemies of democracy and human rights.

But it's not just Erdogan taking action.

Rally

Thousands of people joined a "No to the Coup, Democracy Now" rally in the city of Izmir last Friday.

It was organised by the pro-Kurdish HDP (Peoples Democratic Party) and joined by a grouping of 45 unions and parties that organises May Day.

It followed a demonstration the weekend before of around 100,000 called by the main opposition party, the right wing social democratic CHP (Republican Peoples Party).

The protest also involved some left groups and trade unions. Its

main slogan was "Against the coup and against dictatorship".

Workers have organised against sackings, winning the reinstatement of Mehmet Demir and 21 of his trade unionist colleagues who were removed from state broadcaster TRT.

Mehmet is a trade union activist and ex-president of his union. He had been sacked on the absurd allegation that he was a member of the Gulen sect blamed for the coup.

Solidarity

A wave of solidarity protests saved the jobs.

Rectors of Hakkari, Mersin and Tunceli Universities have resumed investigations and even begun dismissing signatories of the Academics for Peace group. It is critical of government policies and military actions against Kurdish citizens in south east Turkey.

But again solidarity can win. Ten of the petition's signatories at the university in Van province have been reinstated after a campaign.

The coup was defeated by people taking matters into their own hands.

This opens up the possibility of both stifling the military and refusing to accept the shrunken version of democracy that Erdogan offers.

● Last weekend marked the first anniversary of renewed war between Kurdish organisations and the Turkish state. Turkey's Human Rights Foundation says over 355,000 people have been forced from their homes. Curfews and attacks continue.



Watch online...

Turkish socialist Roni Margulies analyses coup >> bit.ly/2alLuxQ



Thousands rallied in the Turkish city of Izmir

France

ASSA TRAORE, whose brother Adama died in custody last month, is held back by police in Paris

Angry over deaths? You're banned

by DAVE SEWELL

FRENCH COPS kettled 1,000 people in Paris last Saturday to stop them marching for justice for a black man who died in police custody.

Adama Traore died after being arrested for trying to escape an identity check on 19 July in the town of Beaumont-sur-Oise to the north of Paris.

The authorities claimed that they hadn't received notification of the march. Yet Liberation newspaper reports seeing documents proving that they had.

The state prosecutor initially said Traore had died of a heart attack. But the autopsy said the

cause of death was asphyxia—suffocation.

A second autopsy pointed to infection, but again with asphyxia as cause of death.

The authorities have ruled out a third autopsy, but other medical tests are being run to establish his health before he died.

The family believe this is a cover up. Adama's brother Baguy said that at the police station, "He was on the floor, hands cuffed behind his back. He had blood on his face."

"I saw one of the officers who had arrested us. He had been wearing a white T-shirt, and I saw him come back with a T-shirt full of blood—my brother's."

"Adama didn't have a heart

attack, he was beaten."

His sister Assa Traore told the demonstration, "It's my brother who is dead, tomorrow it could be your brother, your uncle, your mother."

She pledged that they would come back to march "even if it takes a month".

The police action follows a ban on a vigil on Tuesday of last week for an Ethiopian refugee killed at Britain's border in Calais the day before.

One supporter was arrested. Organisations there now say they will call a vigil whenever a migrant is killed.

A Sudanese man run over on Tuesday of last week became the fourth death in two weeks.

AUSTRALIA

Disabled migrant can't stay

AUSTRALIAN officials have denied a Bangladeshi family permanent residence because their son is autistic.

Lecturer Biswajit Banik and doctor Sarmin Sayeed have lived in Australia since 2007.

But because their

son Arkojeet has "mild autism", he "would be likely to require care" from the state, according to the response to their application.

The family are calling for the government to intervene. Banik said, "We are now

facing discrimination because of a disability." He added, "It's just not right."

The ruling could set a chilling precedent.

Many politicians in Britain and the European Union want to copy Australia's draconian immigration system.

FIGURE IT OUT

3,034

refugees died at sea trying to reach Europe so far this year, according to the International Organisation for Migration

39

dead bodies washed up on the coast of Libya last week following the latest deadly shipwreck

Right up our street

I ENJOYED your feature on the Spanish Civil War (Socialist Worker, 12 July).

One street in Madrid is named after fascist general and Spanish Legion founder Jose Manuel Millan-Astray.

Interrupting a speech by academic Miguel Unamuno he cried, "Death to Intelligence!" Unamuno had criticised the Legion's motto, "Long Live Death".

Left wing Madrid mayor Manuela Carmena wants the street renamed Intelligence Avenue. I know from Northern Ireland that fiddling with street names can be a way to hide a lack of real progress, but this is overdue and welcome.

John Shemeld
Nottingham



ILLUSTRATION: TIM SANDERS

Injustice in Guantanamo

THE US is now set to release Abdul Zahir from Guantanamo. He has been held there for 14 years and has never seen his youngest child.

They admitted that his arrest was a case of mistaken identity.

They also admitted that the chemical warfare ingredients allegedly found in his home were in fact everyday items such as sugar and salt.

John Newsinger
Brighton

Neither for nor against

THE KURDISH PKK is firmly neither for or against the Turkish coup.

This is the only sensible position. So why is Socialist Worker taking a position that supports the Turkish state? It confuses a right wing Islamic street movement with people power. This will lead to disaster—as in Iran in 1979.

Jon Fanning
York

Wake up and smell Trump

YOUR ARTICLE on the US reports, "Sanders said, 'Trump is a bully and a demagogue.' People shouted back, 'So is Hillary!'" (Socialist Worker, 27 July).

It is true. If Trump wins it will rock the establishment. Hillary represents everything Bernie fought against.

Andres Viveros
on Facebook

●PEOPLE BOOING him did nothing. Revolution is more than him and will keep going. Crucial to stop Trump.

@StushPhoen
on Twitter

Crude bigotry for filthy oil

AN ADVERT promoting the Canadian tar sands oil industry asks, "Why are we getting our oil from countries that don't think lesbians are hot?"

Isn't it great to be objectified by Western men instead of Saudis?

This oil ad exploits our sexualities as if they were the Canadian wilderness. It uses "gay rights" as a weapon of Islamophobia in such a crude manner. It's homophobic too.

Vala Biggart
Bristol

Owen goal

OWEN SMITH says he is proud to represent the Welsh town of Pontypridd.

He claims Welsh Labour is a different beast to Labour in Westminster. This simply isn't true.

In 2010, as Smith took the safe seat, the council forced 10,000 employees to take a pay cut or lose their jobs. The area has one of Britain's highest levels of welfare claims yet Smith abstained on the Tories' Welfare Bill.

Smith's comments on migration didn't come as a surprise to constituents.

We all received a newspaper from his general election campaign pledging to "tackle health tourism".

He tried to out-Ukip Ukip, with the result that Ukip gained seats in the Welsh Assembly.

Smith's record discredits his new-found left rhetoric.

Marianne
Pontypridd

Stand with refugees against councils and media smears

RESIDENTS ON the Scottish island of Bute have hit back at pernicious claims made in the Daily Mail newspaper last week that Syrian refugees here "want to leave".

The excellent Bute Welcomes Refugees website calls the article "abhorrent". Its clear implication is that the 15 families who fled war are ungrateful and should go back to Syria if they hate it here.

This is a paper notorious for its daily front page rants attacking refugees and migrants.

One local Facebook post has gone viral, slamming the Mail for its "shocking abuse" of trust of the family it interviewed. Another accused it of "the stirring up of resentment and division".

Local paper The Buteman

responded with an excellent online editorial praising the contribution made by the refugees since their arrival on the island.

One Syrian, Mounzer Darsani, called the article "nonsense" and said Syrians were "proud to be on the island" where they had been "welcomed very well".

Not everything is great on Bute, any more than anywhere else. But it is a gross misrepresentation to claim that refugees would rather be living in a war zone.

Jack Robertson
Port Bannatyne, Isle of Bute

●NORFOLK COUNTY Council voted last week to accept 50 Syrian refugees to settle in Norfolk. Pressure from lobbies,

petitions and demonstrations has paid off.

Stand Up to Racism, refugee groups, faith groups, councillors and the People's Assembly campaigned together.

A delegation from Norwich went on the convoy to Calais, and held a public meeting to report back. We sent a coach to the recent national demonstration in London.

A demonstration called at short notice saw hundreds outside a local Romanian shop damaged in a racist arson attack.

We have more work to do now against Islamophobia and racism, and to make sure there is no delay in getting refugees settled.

Mary Littlefield
Norwich

Help Greek courtroom fight against fascists

GREEK NAZI party Golden Dawn has been on trial since April 2015—with a five-month gap due to a lawyers' strike. All its MPs and dozens of its members are in the dock.

Witnesses for the murder of anti-fascist rapper Pavlos Fyssas recently testified.

Other deadly assaults the court will examine include attempted murders, arsons and raids against migrants, communists and anarchists.

The decision on whether

Golden Dawn constitutes a "criminal conspiracy" will determine the future of the fascist threat in Greece.

The state turned a blind eye to their crimes—when not complicit. This is why the intervention of victims, families and the anti-fascist movement is so vital.

To help with the legal expenses of this crucial anti-fascist battle, go to wp.me/p4S907-nf.

Thanasis Kampagiannis
Lawyer, Athens, Greece

Sexism is the enemy's weapon

SOME ON the left are calling Theresa May "Cruella" or "a witch".

But when we use such words, we condone the right's view of women.

Capitalism gives women two roles to aspire to—childbearer and homemaker.

Walt Disney was a capitalist in whose films the "good" women are



doe-eyed doormats.

Women who break with this lose their humanity as evil characters like Cruella and the witches.

Let's not give Disney's stereotypes new life. Let's

not reinforce the right by using the weapons they made to hurt us.

May is not Cruella or a witch—she is a Tory.

Julia Richardson
Swansea

SURFACE TENSION

Offshore oil workers have a tough life—and bosses are out to make it even tougher to keep up profits. But a new wave of strikes could put a stop to that. **Raymie Kiernan** spoke to trade unionists organising on the North Sea

OFFSHORE OIL and gas rigs are remote, hostile environments. Some in the North Sea are huge installations with up to 200 people. Their size and scale are enormous—a rig is a harbour, an airport, a hotel and a refinery. Workers get there by helicopter.

They have to undergo basic survival and emergency training beforehand. They wear at least three layers of clothing to fly, then a diving suit and life jacket, before being packed into a chopper like sardines.

Everything points to disaster but this is how they get to work.

Once offshore they're stuck on a hunk of metal surrounded by hundreds of miles of open sea. Getting on with people helps when you spend half your life sharing a room.

It's big business (see box, right)

30%
Wood Group's cuts to some workers' pay

23%
pay rise of chief executive
Robin Watson

with 24-hour production. But workers disrupted that last week with a one-day strike—the first North Sea strike in 28 years.

The RMT union's offshore organiser Jake Molloy said strikers "are to be applauded for their strength, spirit and principles".

He added, "This is an unforgiving industry with a seriously bad record when it comes to any form of work-force challenge."

Around 400 Wood Group workers are engaged in a series of strikes on seven Shell platforms against 30 per cent pay cuts and other attacks. One attack increased their two-week shifts to three weeks. In reality many workers are stuck on the rigs even longer.

The RMT and Unite union members planned a two-day walkout on Thursday and Friday of this week. Molloy said, "Striking on an offshore installation is a unique exercise which

has no comparison with any other industrial sector.

"There's no collective grouping in the form of mass meetings, no 'march through the gates' or establishing a picket line. There's no place and little point to waving flags or displaying placards—as there's nobody there to see them."

Instead workers gather in an assigned area, such as a games room, cinema or meeting room, for the duration of their 12-hour shift.

Oil firms enjoyed mega-profits while prices were sky high and they are still making millions.

Offensive

But since 2014 they have used a downturn as an excuse to go on the offensive. Conditions have been attacked and tens of thousands of jobs axed.

There was little or no resistance initially and, with sweetheart agreements with the oil firms' contractors, no real leadership from the recognised unions.

But Wood Group workers decided it was time to fight. They're maintenance workers, so their strikes will not necessarily hit production. But the impact will be felt in a further backlog of maintenance work, compounding an already desperate situation.

SHOCK STATISTICS from industry group Oil & Gas UK last year exposed that North Sea platforms were, on average, 8,000 hours behind schedule on maintenance of "safety-critical equipment".

The figure at the start of 2009 was 2,000 hours. And this is on infrastructure that is largely past its use by date.

Oil & Gas UK chief Deirdre Michie thinks workers and bosses "all need to pull together" so the industry can

How long until next disaster?

SOME 167 people were killed when a fire broke out on the Piper Alpha oil platform in 1988 after a gas leak.

A leak over five times greater was hushed up in the North Sea last year, one worker told Socialist Worker.

The incident occurred on BP's Etap (Eastern Trough Area Project) platform (pictured).

The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) slapped an improvement notice on the oil giant over a "suspected" leak last October. It said BP "failed to take appropriate measures to prevent the uncontrolled release of flammable gas".

The worker said the press "didn't really reflect the fact that, had it gone up, our folks would have seen it back home". ETAP is over 100 miles east of Aberdeen.

"This was a 260kg release—Piper Alpha was 45kg," the worker added. HSE told Socialist Worker the gas release was part of an "ongoing investigation".

Bosses' cuts create potentially lethal conditions. Shell was served

with an improvement notice for an incident on 1 January this year. HSE said a gas leak "resulted in the formation of a potential gas cloud within approximately three metres of five workers".

This resulted "in risk of their injury from fire and/or explosion".

Another notice was served on Shell on 1 April after it "failed to implement arrangements for the safety of employees". There was "potential exposure to injury from unignited gas or fire/and or explosion".

In December last year a record £1.125 million fine was issued to Total for failures that led to the largest release of gas on record from the Elgin platform.

The "sudden and uncontrolled release of gas" occurred in March 2012. It took 51 days to bring the leak under control.

The largest marine oil spill in history took place at BP's Deepwater Horizon in the Gulf of Mexico.

It caused untold environmental damage. Five million barrels of oil were spilled over the 87 days it took to contain it.

Eleven workers went missing following the explosion and were never found.

No gloom in the boardroom

THE financial pages of the press were rather down on the oil companies' second quarter profits last week. It was all about plummets, drops and tumbles.

Shell's profits were "down" to £800 million—for April, May and June. "The results added to the gloom hanging over the global oil majors

after weaker-than-expected numbers from BP and Statoil earlier in the week," moaned the Financial Times newspaper.

Despite all the "disappointment" Shell CEO Ben Van Beurden's total compensation for salary, bonus, pension and "tax equalisation" last year was over £4 million.

Another 11 directors trousered nearly £6 million between them.

It was their reward for cutting "costs" by 10 per cent—6,500 jobs were slashed in 2015.

But Shell will not cut its shareholders' dividend and hasn't

done so in over half a century. The firm accounts for a tenth of all dividends paid out by British companies.

The payout for the last three months was over £2.8 billion—£356 a second.

Shell contractor Wood Group's slash and burn policies to protect profits are at the centre of the current strikes in the North Sea.

Some offshore workers face their third round of redundancies in a year. Last year Wood Group slashed around 8,000 jobs.

Its profits were £320 million in 2015 and it expects to make £261 million this year.



"tours" offshore.

These conditions lay behind the strikes, which have won support from other workers.

Bernie, a Unite member, works in another oil field. He said, "There are a lot of Wood Group boys on my rig and they were sending messages of support to the strikers, as we all were."

"We're really glad they've taken this action. Management cannot take the piss like this. Enough is enough!"

BERNIE ADDED that the Wood Group workers where he is show that organising isn't always easy. "I'm trying to get them to demand union representation but it's like trying to pull teeth," he said.

"A lot of them have only ever worked offshore and have always been cosseted with good times. Now it's getting tougher, those of us with experience of bad management onshore are having trouble trying to convince them that we need unions."

It's not an uncommon experience but it can be overcome.

Harry, an RMT activist and offshore worker, explained some of the difficulties of "organising the unorganised". He said, "Traditionally the North Sea is a mine field. Lack of access to worksites for union officials, sweetheart deals and competitive trade unionism hold back the membership."

But Harry argued that the current Wood Group dispute "highlights the importance of a true rank and file influence".

Some 20 months ago a group of union activists decided to start organising resistance to the bosses' offensive.

"When we started we had nothing but an idea of a Facebook page to try and bridge the geographical

£79m
Wood Group's dividend to shareholders in 2015

£1.53m
Potential earnings of chief financial officer David Kemp

gap between workers offshore," Harry said.

Harry is inspired by OilC. This rank and file coordinating body across unions led a wave of rig strikes and occupations after the Piper Alpha disaster (see above left).

He said if workers hadn't put pressure on the unions to come together there would be no Offshore Coordinating Group (OCG). "We had collective courage to make that happen," he said.

An unofficial downing of tools met Wood Group's announcement of redundancies earlier this year. The current series of strikes have been organised through the OCG. It is a huge step forward. And bosses fear it could be contagious.

Harry said the last few months have shown what can be achieved and is a lesson to workers offshore.

"You read about big oil losses and it seems all doom and gloom," he said. "But a coordinated approach means the future is bright for the offshore worker—if they want it, and are prepared to make a stand for it."

Dozens or hundreds of miles off Scotland's coast, the rigs are only accessible by helicopter



"restore competitiveness".

In the past two years this has meant sacking experienced workers, deskilling the industry and undermining

safety. Oil and gas barons are prepared to sacrifice lives to line their pockets.

New work patterns are part of the problem.

Bosses had promised that 21 days would be the maximum time offshore. Yet it's common for workers to be there for closer to a month.

A 2016 study for the trade union Offshore Coordinating Group (OCG) highlighted "significant physical and psychological demands" on workers.

It found, "Shift work offshore is linked with poorer sleep quality, impaired alertness and decreasing task performance, with higher rates of accident and injury." And this was drawn from evidence based on two-week



The work on an oil rig is hard and physical

The workers are set to strike again for 48 hours from Thursday 4 August

Send messages of support to oilc.rmt.secretary@gmail.com and offshoreunite@gmail.com



Workers protesting in masks in Aberdeen in February



Instead of organising picket lines, workers occupy a room in the rig for 24 hours

WHAT WE STAND FOR

These are the core politics of the Socialist Workers Party.

INDEPENDENT WORKING CLASS ACTION

Under capitalism workers' labour creates all profit. A socialist society can only be constructed when the working class seizes control of the means of production and democratically plans how they are used.

REVOLUTION NOT REFORM

The present system cannot be patched up or reformed as the established Labour and trade union leaders say.

It has to be overthrown. Capitalism systematically degrades the natural world. Ending environmental crisis means creating a new society.

THERE IS NO PARLIAMENTARY ROAD

The structures of the present parliament, army, police and judiciary cannot be taken over and used by the working class. They grew up under capitalism and are designed to protect the ruling class against the workers.

The working class needs an entirely different kind of state—a workers' state based upon councils of workers' delegates and a workers' militia.

At most parliamentary activity can be used to make propaganda against the present system.

Only the mass action of the workers themselves can destroy the system.

INTERNATIONALISM

The struggle for socialism is part of a worldwide struggle. We campaign for solidarity with workers in other countries.

We oppose everything which turns workers from one country against those from other countries.

We oppose racism and imperialism. We oppose all immigration controls.

We support the right of black people and other oppressed groups to organise their own defence. We support all genuine national liberation movements.

The experience of Russia demonstrates that a socialist revolution cannot survive in isolation in one country.

In Russia the result was state capitalism, not socialism. In Eastern Europe and China a similar system was later established by Stalinist parties. We support the struggle of workers in these countries against both private and state capitalism.

We are for real social, economic and political equality of women. We are for an end to all forms of discrimination against lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people.

We defend the right of believers to practise their religion without state interference.

THE REVOLUTIONARY PARTY

To achieve socialism the most militant sections of the working class have to be organised into a revolutionary socialist party.

Such a party can only be built by activity in the mass organisations of the working class.

We have to prove in practice to other workers that reformist leaders and reformist ideas are opposed to their own interests. We have to build a rank and file movement within the unions.

To join us, turn to page 16 or go to www.swp.org.uk or phone 020 7840 5602 for more information

{ SOCIALIST WORKER } BRANCH MEETINGS

Weekly meetings to discuss political issues and our local interventions. All welcome.

BARNSELY

Spain 1936—a revolution against fascism

Thu 11 Aug, 6.30pm,
YMCA,
Blucher St,
S70 1AP

BIRMINGHAM: CITY CENTRE

The roots of terrorism

Wed 10 Aug, 7pm,
Birmingham LGBT Centre,
38/40 Holloway Circus,
B1 1EQ

BOLTON

Fighting oppression and exploitation

Thu 11 Aug, 6.30pm,
Bolton Socialist Club,
16 Wood St (off
Bradshawgate),
BL1 1DY

BRADFORD

A rebel's guide to Malcolm X

Thu 18 Aug, 7pm,
Glyde House,
Little Horton Lane, BD5 0BQ

BRIGHTON

Alexandra Kollontai

Thu 11 Aug, 7.30pm,
Brighthelm Centre,
North Rd, BN1 1YD

BRISTOL

Corbyn and the fight for socialism

Wed 10 Aug, 7.30pm,
YHA, 14 Narrow Quay,
BS1 4QA

BURNLEY

Syria, war and revolution

Wed 10 Aug, 7.30pm,
Red Triangle Cafe,
160 St. James's St,
BB1 1NR

CAMBRIDGE

Where does racism come from?

Thu 11 Aug, 7.30pm,
Signal Box,
Glenalmond Avenue (off
Clarendon Rd), CB2 8DB

CARDIFF

A rebel's guide to Malcolm X

Wed 10 Aug, 7.30pm,
Cathays Community Centre,
Cathays Terrace, CF24 4HX

CHESTERFIELD

Why does capitalism need borders?

Thu 11 Aug, 7.30pm,
Chesterfield Library, New
Beetwell St, S40 1QN

COLCHESTER

A rebel's guide to Malcolm X

Wed 10 Aug, 7.30pm,
The Odd One Out, 28
Mersea Rd, CO2 7ET

DUNDEE

What would a socialist society look like?

Wed 10 Aug, 7.30pm,
Dundee Voluntary Action,
10 Constitution Rd, DD1 1LL

EDINBURGH

Why Shakespeare matters to socialists

Wed 10 Aug, 7.30pm,
Cavern Bar,
7 Bernard St, EH6 6PW

EXETER

Capitalism in crisis — was Marx right?

Thu 11 Aug, 7pm,
New Horizon Cafe,
47 Longbrook St, EX4 6AW

GLASGOW: SOUTH

The revolutionary ideas of Victor Serge

Thu 11 Aug, 7.30pm,
Govanhill Baths,
99 Calder St, G42 7RA

HARLOW

Why we oppose all immigration controls

Thu 18 Aug, 7.30pm,
Friends Meeting House,
1 Church Leys, CM18 6BX

HUDDERSFIELD

Missile madness — why we say Trident must go

Wed 10 Aug, 6.30pm,
Brian Jackson House,
2 New North Parade, HD1 5JP

SOCIALIST WORKER MEETINGS



Black Lives Matter protests have spread from the US to Britain

PICTURE: GUY SMALLMAN

Black Lives Matter—race, class and revolt today

COVENTRY

Wed 17 Aug, 7.30pm,
West Indian Centre,
159 Spon St, CV1 3BB

LONDON: SOUTHWARK

Thu 11 Aug, 7pm,
Snug room, The Grand Union,
26 Camberwell Grove,
(off Camberwell Church St),
SE5 8RE

LANCASTER

Jeremy Corbyn, the Labour Party and the struggle for socialism

Thu 1 Sep, 7pm,
Friends Meeting House,
Meeting House Lane, LA1 1TX

LEEDS: CITY CENTRE

Pride and the struggle for LGBT+ liberation

Thu 11 Aug, 7pm,
The Swarthmore
Education Centre,
2-7 Woodhouse Square,
LS3 1AD

LIVERPOOL

Marxism and ecology

Thu 1 Sep, 7.30pm,
The Caledonia,
22 Caledonia St, L7 7DX

LONDON: BRENT AND HARROW

Have women achieved equality?

Thu 11 Aug, 7.30pm,
Maida Hill Place,
2-4 Fernhead Rd, W9 3ET

LONDON: BRIXTON

A very capitalist condition—a history and politics of disability

Wed 17 Aug, 7pm,
Vida Walsh Centre,
2b Saltoun Rd, SW2 1EP

LONDON: EALING

The politics of sport

Thu 18 Aug, 7.30pm,
West London Trade Union
Club, 33-35 High St, Acton,
W3 6ND

LONDON: HACKNEY

Can Corbyn beat the establishment?

Thu 11 Aug, 7.30pm,
The Round Chapel,
2 Powerscroft Rd (corner
Lower Clapton Rd), E5 0PU

LONDON: ISLINGTON

What do Marxists say about gender and sexuality

Thu 11 Aug, 7pm,
The Old Fire Station,
84 Mayton St, N7 6QT

NEWCASTLE

Thu 11 Aug, 7pm,
Broadacre House,
Market St, NE1 6HQ

ROTHERHAM

Wed 10 Aug, 7pm,
Talbot Lane Methodist
Church Centre,
Moorgate St,
S60 2EY

SHEFFIELD: CITY CENTRE

Thu 11 Aug, 7pm,
Central United Reformed Church,
60 Norfolk St (near Crucible
Theatre), S1 2JB

WAKEFIELD

Wed 10 Aug, 7pm,
Lightwaves Centre,
Lower York St,
WF1 3LJ

LONDON: LEWISHAM

Spain 1936—a revolution against fascism

Wed 10 Aug, 7.30pm,
West Greenwich Community
and Arts Centre,
141 Greenwich High Rd
SE10 8JA

LONDON: NEWHAM

Can Corbyn defeat the right?

Wed 10 Aug, 7pm,
Stratford Advice Arcade,
107-109 The Grove, E15 1HP

LONDON: WALTHAM FOREST

Bernie Sanders—what next for the movement?

Wed 10 Aug, 7.30pm,
Quaker Meeting House,
1a Jewel Rd, E17 4QU

LUTON

After Chilcot, blood on Blair's hands—what really happened in Iraq?

Thu 18 Aug, 7.30pm,
Stockwood Hotel, 41-43
Stockwood Crescent, LU1 3SS

MANCHESTER: CHORLTON

Corbyn, the Labour Party and the fight for Socialism

Wed 3 Aug, 7pm,
Chorlton Central Church
(Meeting Room),
Barlow Moor Rd,
M21 8BF

MANCHESTER: CITY CENTRE

The Paris Commune—when workers took power

Thu 18 Aug, 7pm,
Friends Meeting House,
6 Mount St,
M2 5NS

MEDWAY

Corbyn, the Labour Party and the struggle for socialism

Thu 18 Aug, 7.30pm,
Nucleus Arts Centre
(Conference Room),
272 High St,
ME4 4BP

NORWICH

Antisemitism, Zionism, Labour and the left

Thu 11 Aug, 7.30pm,
Vauxhall Centre,
Johnson Place, NR2 2SA

OXFORD

Capitalism in crisis — was Marx right?

Wed 10 Aug, 7.30pm,
Restore, Manzil Way (off
Cowley Rd), OX4 1YH

POOLE

Defending the NHS

Tue 16 Aug, 7.30pm,
Butler & Hops,
88 High St, BH15 1DB

PORTSMOUTH

Corbyn, the Labour Party and the struggle for socialism

Wed 10 Aug, 7.30pm,
Southsea Community Centre,
St Paul's Square,
PO5 4EE

SOUTHAMPTON

Corbyn, the Labour Party and the struggle for socialism

Wed 10 Aug, 7.30pm,
Central Baptist Church Hall,
Devonshire Rd,
SO15 2GY

SWANSEA

Corbyn, the Labour Party and the struggle for socialism

Thu 11 Aug, 7.30pm,
Brynmill Community Centre,
St Albans Rd,
SA2 0BP

WOLVERHAMPTON & WALSALL

What do we say about terrorism

Wed 10 Aug, 7.30pm,
Wild Bytes Cafe,
Darlington St,
WV1 4HW

YORK

France—the workers' revolt

Wed 10 Aug, 7.30pm,
Sea Horse Hotel,
4 Fawcett St,
YO10 4AH

{ MOVEMENT EVENTS }

BIRMINGHAM

Unwelcome Tory Conference to Birmingham 2016

Sun 2 Oct, 12 noon.
Go to Unwelcome Tory Party
Conference to Birmingham
2016 on Facebook

BRADFORD

Eyewitness report from the Calais refugee camp

Wed 17 Aug, 7pm,
Bradford Hotel,
Hall Ings,
BD1 5SH

DORCHESTER

Report back from Convoy to Calais

Sat 6 Aug, 1.30pm,
Colliton Club,
Colliton Park, DT1 1XJ.
Organised by Dorset Socialists

DORCHESTER

Creeping privatisation of the NHS

Fri 2 Sep, 1.30pm,
Colliton Club,
Colliton Park, DT1 1XJ.
Organised by Dorset Socialists

NATIONAL

Stand Up to Racism Conference

Sat 8 Oct, 10.30am-4.30pm,
Friends Meeting House,
173-177 Euston Rd,
NW1 2BJ.

Speakers include Diane
Abbott MP, Kate Osamor MP,
NUT general secretary Kevin
Courtney, UCU general
secretary Sally Hunt, PCS
general secretary Mark
Serwotka and Talha Ahmad,
Muslim Council of Britain.

standuptoracism.org.uk

Marxism and Nature

Sat 15 Oct,
10.30am,

Central London, WC2E 9RZ.

Speakers include author and
field ecologist Ted Benton,

Canadian ecosocialist Ian
Angus, associate professor
John Parrington and Suzanne
Jeffrey from the Campaign
against Climate Change (pc)

isj.org.uk

Unite Against Fascism
and Love Music Hate
Racism educational trip to
Krakow and Auschwitz

Thu 3 - Mon 7 Nov.
Go to uaf.org.uk for details

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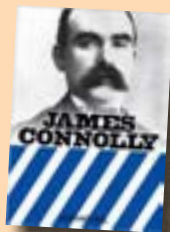
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66 Days—a fine lesson in the brutality of the British state

Several attempts have been made to dramatise Bobby Sands' fatal hunger strike—but 66 Days succeeds where others have failed, says **Sarah Bates**

BOBBY SANDS is one of the world's most famous martyrs. Several attempts have been made to dramatise his fatal hunger strike in 1981—the recent documentary 66 Days must be one of the best.

Sands' diaries and poetry are interwoven with history of British imperialist rule in Northern Ireland.

This means the film has real pathos and makes the documentary accessible for all—regardless of your existing knowledge.

66 Days takes you through each painful day of the strike as Sands' physical condition worsens but his resolve remains as strong as ever.

It is comprised of a mix of dramatisation, animation and archive footage. But 66 Days is anchored on Sands' own diaries written during his prison stay—and crucially written during the first 17 days of the hunger strike.

Former IRA volunteers, Sinn Féin members, H-Block prison guards, historians and even a hunger strike specialist talk directly to the audience.

Prisoners in the H-Blocks were subjected to torture. Sensory deprivation meant even the windows into the cells were boarded up.

The treatment of prisoners inside H-Block attracted mass support for them, with demonstrations of tens of thousands of people.

Political

The hunger strikers, led by Sands, were striking for nothing more than a recognition of their political prisoner status. Sands correctly predicted that the hunger strike would raise the profile of the special category



HUNGER STRIKER Bobby Sands in 66 Days

status—and the demand for a united Ireland free from British persecution.

The film perfectly demonstrates that resistance to Britain's occupation does not begin and end with the IRA.

Those who knew him said Sands identified himself in the political tradition of James Connolly and others involved in the 1916 Easter Rising.

Bobby Sands died aged 27 years

old, emaciated, blind, and in too much pain to have blankets touching his skin.

After ten men had died the hunger strike was called off and their demands were met in all but name.

Sands died where he had spent most of his adult life—in prison. Over 100,000 people attended his funeral.

Bobby Sands understood that by

becoming a martyr he would change the world we live in today.

The film is a valuable resource. It explores aspects of Sands' imprisonment which are often forgotten—his ability to write and tell stories to fellow prisoners, and in keeping up morale.

66 Days doesn't romanticise the reality of armed struggle. It shows how the death toll of both Protestant and Catholic rises over the years.

The documentary succeeds where past dramatisations, most notably Steve McQueen's *Hunger*, have failed.

Prison

That's because it doesn't only concentrate on Sands' psychological state but looks at the impact he made outside the prison.

Sands' election as an MP during his hunger strike is one of the most interesting parts of the film. 66 Days is a lesson in how far the British state will go to quash resistance.

It avoids the easy trap of painting Bobby Sands as just a victim in a conflict. He was the architect of his own destiny and orchestrated the hunger strikes to gain maximum political capital.

Unfortunately, the documentary is enjoying only a limited release in cinemas.

All those interested in learning about one of the turning points for British imperialism should take the chance to watch it.

66 days is directed by Brendan J Byrne and produced by Trevor Birney. It is on limited release in UK cinemas. Go to 66daysthefilm.com for more details

FILM

DUGMA—THE BUTTON

Directed by Pal Refsdal.
In cinemas now

NORWEGIAN journalist and filmmaker Paul Refsdal spent six weeks embedded with Jabhat al-Nusra in Syria.

Dugma—the Button approaches the subject of young men waiting for suicide missions with a light touch. It humanises the fighters by showing them talking, eating and singing.

In the opening scene, Abu Qaswara al Maki, a former Saudi soldier, shows us around his heavily armoured truck explaining the mechanics of a suicide bomb.

Then they go for lunch.



Dugma—the Button

It is an observational film free of overt editorialising—which is its weakness as well as its strength.

The film gives insight to the ordinariness and the waiting of military life. But it lacks context.

The fighters each tell atrocity stories of the other side. There is anger toward Western bombing strikes. But that's about it.

As a look inside a section of life on one part of the Syrian war it is refreshing. But for an understanding of what the war is about look elsewhere.

TOP 5 BOOKS

Bestsellers at Bookmarks, the socialist Bookshop

- 1 **The Communist Manifesto**
Karl Marx and Frederick Engels
- 2 **Marxism and ecology**
Martin Empson
- 3 **A very capitalist condition—a history and politics of disability**
Roddy Slorach
- 4 **Sexism and the system**
Judith Orr
- 5 **Over the rainbow**
Nicola Field

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bookmarksbookshop.co.uk
Why not visit the shop at 1 Bloomsbury Street, London WC1B 3QE

Don't miss chance to see Barry Lyndon in cinemas

FILM

BARRY LYNDON

Directed by Stanley Kubrick
Showing in selected UK cinemas

STANLEY Kubrick's film *Barry Lyndon* is often described as an underrated classic.

That isn't really true. It hasn't been underrated for years. But the chance to see it at cinemas is fortunate.

Barry Lyndon examines the 18th century as a distant world. It is a costume drama where the brilliance of its images

surrounds you. The film is a leisurely and panoramic exploration, not a romp.

Barry Lyndon is about foolish, gallant overreaching—and has a great deal to say about the privileges of class.

It's the story of the rise and fall of a poor, Irish opportunist. He has a crush on a cousin, whose English suitor he shoots in a duel.

This sends Barry off to war, first in the English army, then the Prussian.

No situation remains permanent. Barry, in the course of what the narrator describes



Painting-like scenes in Barry Lyndon

as "a wandering and disconnected life," then becomes a Prussian spy, a continental gambler, a philanderer and husband.

The film is beautiful—deliberately set up to look like paintings of the age but also to set the viewer

apart from the subject.

It is filled with meticulously stage-managed rituals—courtship, card game, marriage and duel.

The much vaunted filming by candlelight and authentic costumes are in

a sense Kubrick building the world of *Barry Lyndon* up to show its mechanics.

That's why scenes linger. The camera is mostly pulling back. It doesn't zoom in much.

The society the characters inhabit are displayed, not just the centre of the picture. That process is more engaging to watch than describe.

Barry Lyndon is an austere picture. It shows class struggles, the way money works, how small events shape a life and how nobility isn't noble.

It is a better film for it. **Simon Basketter**

THE DEPTH of anger over the social cleansing of Brazil for the Olympics burst out last week as the ceremonial torch passed through the coastal town of Angra dos Reis. Protesters, angry over unpaid wages, housing shortages and service cuts, seized the torch and extinguished it.

It is one example of the fury about what the games means to ordinary people. The poor have been unceremoniously evicted while the rich are subsidised.

In the posh Bairro Tijuca in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, the Olympic Village is “a high-end gated community in waiting”, according to journalist David Goldblatt.

And even posher (and more profitable) homes for the rich are being developed around the Olympic golf course.

For big construction firms, the Olympics is a godsend. Rio is awash with other fabulously profitable developments, such as the refurbishment of the dock district at Porto Maravilha.

It has little to do with the games, but everything to do with gigantic profits for huge companies. These are generously subsidised by working class people's taxes. Around a third of the cost of the games comes from private financing. The rest comes from the pockets of the poor.

The rapid bus transport system and the metro are permanent legacies, but they are mainly designed to ferry rich people between rich areas.

Residents of the Rua Ipadu, Sao Sebastiao and Vila Uniao de Curicica favelas in Rio's West Zone were forcibly removed in order to make way for it.

Evictions

They were given few options. Evictions started in 2014. Some people were offered compensation—but not enough money to buy a property in the region. Others agreed to leave in exchange for a new apartment.

“At the time of expropriation, the city promised they would pay, but our problem was that they didn't put anything in writing,” said Jorge Valdevino. He is a representative of the Colonia Juliano Moreira Condominium, where 96 families were relocated.

Six months ago some residents began receiving collection letters from Banco do Brasil, which financed the construction of the condominium, informing them they owe over £17,000.

An estimated 77,000 people have been made homeless. Vila Autodromo in western Rio was substantially destroyed earlier this year, despite a four year campaign by the 600 families who lived there.

When the bulldozers flattened the homes of fisherfolk and construction workers, Rio's

mayor defended the action, saying their land was needed for an access road.

Twenty five families are still there, living among fetid water and construction waste. One resident explained, “The city is planned for the rich. The poor who built the city do not have a right to it.”

The games are being held against the backdrop of Brazil's worst economic crisis since the 1930s. They are costing £3.5 billion, an over-run of 51 percent.

MAKE WAY for the Olympics—demolished remains of Vila Autodromo favela in Rio where 600 families resisted eviction for four years

BRAZIL'S EVICTION GAMES

A city planned for the rich and ‘slavery’ for workers while the poor are cleansed for being in the way. **Andy Brown** and **Simon Shaw** expose the Rio Olympic Games

Michel “Coup” Temer

police against social movements.

He is insisting on a neoliberal austerity programme that cuts workers' rights and government spending on health and education. It will open up Brazil to new free trade deals with the US, Asia and the European Union.

Meanwhile Rio's favelas are not included on official maps of the city prepared for the games.

The enormous Olympic signage on Rio's motorways, especially from the airport, is used to hide the poor neighbourhoods from the eyes of visitors.

The sinister “pacification programme” for the favelas—a combination of social cleansing, police repression and very limited reform—has largely failed.

The Popular Committee on the World Cup and Olympics has issued a 190-page dossier detailing human rights violations carried out in the course of Olympic construction.

It makes 16 demands. They include the right to protest and the release of prisoners, the provision of housing on all surplus land from public developments and free public transport.

The dossier also calls for an end to the removal of street children by the security forces. It dubs the Rio Olympics “The Exclusion Games”.

ON 5 July hundreds of Brazilians gathered in front of the Rio de Janeiro state legislative assembly to protest against the human rights violations related to the Olympics.

The demonstration was organised by The People without Fear and Rio 2016—The Exclusion Games, two groups of residents and their supporters.

They said, “There's money to finance the mega-event, meanwhile the salaries of public sector workers are delayed and the public's basic services are cut.”

The next day another protest highlighted the Brazilian government's cuts to health and education. It was attended by many public sector workers including teachers that have struck for better conditions and pay.

The day after that students from Rio de Janeiro State University marched and debated the issues related to the games.

Demonstrations are already being organised for this week, with five days of protests planned in the run-up to the opening ceremony.

As Socialist Worker went to press, thousands of people were gathering for a protest called “Let's extinguish the torch in Rio”. A large protest is set for the day of the opening ceremony.

There may be records set at Rio on the track or field or in the pool.

As far as waste, corruption, repression and profit making are concerned, the Brazil games will be up there with all the championships of past Olympics.

There has been a constitutional coup against the Workers' Party president Dilma Rousseff, backed by the judiciary, pro-business parties and the massively powerful Brazilian media.

Rousseff remains suspended pending impeachment. Her successor is the corrupt Michel Temer, who was banned from standing for office for eight years for previous violations.

As secretary of security in Sao Paulo, Temer acquired a reputation for the brutal use of the

“

Welcome to Rio—the poor are evicted while the rich are subsidised

Federal troops implement the state's ‘pacification’ policy in Mare slums in Rio

Olympics driven from top but can also reflect base of society

EVEN BEFORE the Olympic flame was lit in Rio, political tussles had broken out between the major competitors.

Russia became the first country in history to have its athletics team banned from the Olympics after a ruling by the International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF).

A further 19 rowers were banned last week for similar doping allegations.

“If somebody is trying to politicise this, that's a big mistake,” warned Russian president Vladimir Putin.

The IAAF hit back claiming that “politics did not have a part” in the decision.

Sharp words aside, both Putin and the IAAF's implication is that sport and politics shouldn't mix.

However, the history of the Olympics and modern sport under capitalism, shows this is bunkum.

As socialist writer George Orwell wrote in 1945, “At the international level sport is frankly mimic warfare. It is war minus the shooting.”

The modern Olympic Games were set up in 1894 by French nationalist Baron de Coubertin, who quit in 1928 when women were allowed to compete.

While he promoted the

games as internationalist, they were used to build nationalism from the beginning.

After the imperialist bloodbath of the First World War, the losing nations were banned and Belgium was awarded all the medals.

When Nazi Germany was allowed to host the Olympics in 1936, Adolf Hitler opened the games as part of a “Nordic ceremony” celebrating “white supremacy”.

The modern Olympics has always walked a fraught tightrope between nationalism and internationalism.

That's partly because as capitalism developed, it sought to organise sport in its own image of competition and professionalism.

Orwell argued, “Nearly all the sports practised nowadays are competitive. It is not possible to play simply for fun and exercise.”

But there has also been resistance during the Olympics, such as when US black medal winners Tommie Smith and John Carlos did the Black Power salute.

That's partly because sport is a popular and collective activity.

While the Olympics are driven from the top, they can also reflect what's going on at the base of society.

READ MORE

● **The Games—a global history of the Olympics** by David Goldblatt

● **Capitalism and Sport** edited by Michael Lavalette

● **A historic turning point in Brazil** by Eduardo Albuquerque isj.org.uk/a-historic-turning-point-in-brazil

● **Rio 2016 “Exclusion Games”** rioonwatch.org/?p=25747

Books available at Bookmarks, the socialist bookshop. Phone 020 7637 1848 or go to bookmarksbookshop.co.uk



Stafford Cripps—a turncoat twice over

Simon Basketter continues our series of columns on the Labour Party with a look at one of its lesser-known radicals

STAFFORD CRIPPS was a man of wealth and privilege. His father was a Tory MP and peer. Throughout the 1930s, Cripps' politics upset the top of Labour Party as much as his own class.

He tried to pull the Labour Party to implement socialism but ended his career as a chancellor imposing austerity.

Cripps was a vegetarian and a teetotaler—because he was shocked at how drunk MPs were.

The 1930 Labour government needed a solicitor-general.

Cripps, a successful lawyer, was appointed just a year after joining the party. He was given the customary knighthood and parachuted into a safe seat in Bristol. He was not seen as of the left.

The Labour government accepted brutal cuts but eventually balked at leader Ramsay MacDonald's 1931 alliance with the Tories.

Bruising

The trauma of the betrayal led to a mass swing to the left in the Labour Party after a bruising electoral defeat.

Cripps moved left into the Socialist League. By 1934 it claimed 74 branches with a membership of about 3,000.

Initially the League was quite successful in getting resolutions through Labour Party conferences.

In 1933 the national executive committee accepted a motion saying Labour's objective should be “to eliminate all private enterprise as quickly as possible”.

A resolution pledging to resist war by means which included a general strike was also passed.

The lesson of the collapse of the Labour government in 1931, Cripps argued, was that the capitalists would use extra-parliamentary weapons to defend their power.

He urged Labour to be prepared to use “dictatorial

Stafford Cripps (foreground, arm against railing) on a Labour Party delegation to China in August 1954

powers” against big business and to get ready for civil war. He was pushing the boundaries of reformism.

He also wrote of the need to “create guards of the revolution and create them now for when the revolution comes it will be too late”.

But it was a confused position. After being attacked in the press for saying socialists had to overcome resistance from Buckingham Palace, Cripps rather feebly said that he had not meant the monarchy but their advisers.

In truth the advances on the conference floor were based on the temporary support of a few big unions. Once they could get the moderate policies they wanted, the bureaucrats swung against the left.

Hitler's victory in Germany and the increasing threat of fascism saw Cripps put forward the call for a united front of all workers' parties.

The Communist Party (CP) had turned to the policy of the popular front. This involved forming alliances with “progressives” from

among right wing and ruling class parties. So Cripps was advocating a workers' front while the Communists were allying with anti-fascist Tories.

Pressure from the right and from the CP combined with a low level of working class resistance. This encouraged Cripps and the League to slide from united front to that of the people's front of “progressives”.

Either way the Labour Party and union leaders wanted none of it and the League was thrown out of Labour in 1937.

Conviction

By this stage, as one biographer put it, Cripps was “arguing, with the total conviction he had previously deployed on the other side of the case, that the fascist danger surely merited abandoning working class control for the time being”.

The centrality of class struggle was replaced with national interest and appeals to common humanity, increasingly framed in Christian language.

By 1939 he was arguing not for emergency powers against the bosses but mundane proposals for streamlining parliamentary procedure.

During the Second World War he joined the cabinet in the national government. He rejoined Labour to become chancellor in the 1945 Labour government.

He oversaw austerity in the “national interest”. It was both his highest and lowest achievement.

“

Once they got their policies, bureaucrats swung against the left

10,000 join march for independence

by BOB FOTHERINGHAM

A BIG march took place in Glasgow last Saturday demanding a second referendum on Scottish Independence. Organised by the "All under one banner" group, the turnout of around 10,000 surprised almost everyone.

A similar demonstration called a year ago attracted only a few hundred people.

Mainly working class people came from all over Scotland and the mood on the march was solidly anti-Tory.

The most popular slogan was "Tories out". The best way now that many people see of achieving this in Scotland is through independence.

There were also calls for the removal of Trident nuclear missiles and massive support for refugees fleeing war and oppression.

Another important demand was for a guarantee that all European Union (EU) citizens living in Scotland have the right to remain

permanently with full rights.

Tony Cox of the Scottish Unemployed Workers Network told the Herald newspaper that the march should be seen as the launch of a more radical movement for independence.

He suggested this would attract greater support by posing an alternative vision to the austerity agenda at Westminster.

Flag

Cox said, "Opposition to welfare cuts has to be a red line issue for us, as we don't want independence just so we can have a different coloured flag."

"We've had 40 years from Westminster of the criminalisation of people on welfare."

"We need to launch a social independence movement that puts forward an alternative to this, which is the way we can win independence."

The result of the EU referendum vote in Scotland was different from England, with 62 percent voting to remain.

This, along with the pro-business and racist nature of both the official Leave and



ON THE march in Glasgow

TWITTER/@OAKROYD

Remain campaigns, has once again highlighted the political differences between the two countries.

But recent opinion polls have not shown a majority for independence. This has

led to the Scottish National Party drawing back from any immediate demand for a vote.

Such retreats will never win the debate.

Meanwhile Scottish

Labour's deputy leader Alex Rowley has called for independence to be included in a new "national conversation" on Scotland's future following the Leave vote.

Displaying the divisions

inside the party, he also said he would not oppose a second independence referendum.

He said, "I accept the SNP were clear in their manifesto that the Scottish Parliament would have the right to hold another one if there was a 'significant and material change' in the circumstances that prevailed in 2014, such as Scotland being taken out of the EU against our will."

Support

Rowley has also said he will continue to support Jeremy Corbyn.

His remarks on independence were immediately disowned by the party with a spokesperson saying, "We do not support a second independence referendum and we will not be changing that position any time soon."

Scottish Labour has also ruled out becoming an independent party after a consultation of members found little support for the option.

The Named Person Scheme—protecting Scotland's children?
Go to bit.ly/2aHzdG3

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2011 rioters were rising up against injustice

Five years after the summer riots, Alistair Farrow takes aim at claims that they were just ‘mindless’

THE RIOTS that swept Britain after police killed Mark Duggan in north London in 2011 were an uprising against poverty, injustice and police racism.

Rioting took place in Birmingham, Bristol, Leeds, Liverpool, London, Manchester, Nottingham, towns in Kent and elsewhere.

Former prime minister David Cameron described the riots as “criminality pure and simple”. David Lammy, Labour MP for Tottenham, described them as “mindless”.

But many rioters targeted police stations first and foremost. Six per cent of all crimes recorded during the riots were directed at police targets, according to the Home Office.

One Black Lives Matter activist from Liverpool described the riot he observed to Socialist Worker. He said, “It was not primarily about people destroying property—although there were elements of that.

“This was about people wanting to hurt the police after years of violence.”

Justified

There was a vast gulf between the ways rioters were treated compared to how the police officer who killed Mark Duggan was treated. This reinforced the justified anger people felt towards the police and judicial system.

The cop who shot Mark, officer V53, was released without charge despite giving testimony at Mark’s inquest that was clearly contradictory.

He claimed to have never taken his eyes off Mark, yet the gun he claimed to have seen in Mark’s hand simply “disappeared”.

Compared to this, the scale of the state’s response to the riots was staggering.



Cops in Tottenham during the riots

BACK STORY

Mark Duggan was killed by the police in Tottenham, north London, on 4 August 2011

- Following his shooting riots spread across Britain
- The right claimed they were just “criminal” and “mindless”
- They were an uprising against police racism and poverty
- The police and state took a kicking. After the riots they took revenge with harsh sentences

Within six months of the riots taking place 1,804 rioters had been brought before courts.

The police and state had got a kicking—now they were taking revenge. Unprecedented steps were taken to rush through as many cases as possible.

Magistrates’ courts sat through the night to hear cases. Many were passed to Crown Courts which had the ability to pass harsher sentences.

Of these 1,804 defendants, just 327 were found not guilty or told that no further action would be taken against them.

Many people had pleaded guilty because they expected they would receive lighter sentences.

One 17 year old with no prior contact with the police was handed an 18-month custodial sentence for taking two bottles of wine and a T-shirt. The custodial sentences handed down amounted to more than 1,200 years in total.

One of the rioters in London said,

“Everything the police have done to us, did to us, was in our heads. “That’s what gave everyone their adrenaline to want to fight the police. “It was because of the way they treated us.”



THE RIOTS spread to Hackney in east London

PICTURE: GUY SMALLMAN

Five years after Mark Duggan’s death —cops still have questions to answer

POLICE KILLED Mark Duggan in Tottenham, north London, five years ago on this Thursday.

But Mark’s family are still fighting for justice from the police and the supposedly neutral IPCC watchdog.

They both have serious questions to answer about their conduct, on the day and before and after the shooting.

On 4 August Mark was in the passenger seat of a minicab, which the police stopped on Ferry Lane in Tottenham.

Handgun

Earlier that day, the cab had driven to an address in Leyton, east London, where Kevin Hutchinson-Foster had given Mark a shoebox. Police claim that this shoebox contained a handgun.

The DNA of Hutchinson-Foster and another man, Peter Osadbey, was found on the gun after testing. Mark’s wasn’t.

Hutchinson-Foster attacked Osadbey with the gun on 29 July. When questioned, he said that the gun was not in the shoebox he handed to Mark.

The officer who shot Mark in the arm and chest, codenamed

V53, claimed that Mark had a gun in his hand. He told the inquest into Mark’s death that this was the reason he shot him.

However, no independent witnesses reported seeing a gun and the jury at the inquest concluded that Mark was not holding a gun when shot.

Witness B said Mark was holding a Blackberry phone.

The gun, which police claimed Mark was holding, was found on grass over four metres from where he was shot.

The IPCC report concluded that “the most plausible explanation” for the gun’s location is that Mark threw it there. But V53 said the gun “just disappeared” and no other officer saw the gun travelling through the air.

Footage captures a sequence of events that puts doubt on the police account. It shows officer Q63 ducking by the door of the car—out of view for 12 seconds—near where the shoebox was found.

He emerges and talks to officer V59, and officer R31 who then disappears from view and goes to the grassed area.

Shortly afterwards V59 gives

newly arrived armed response officers instruction. They then go to the grass where the gun was marked to have been found.

Suspicious

But this was 34 seconds before officer Z51, who officially located the gun, reported its location.

The IPCC said there was “nothing suspicious” that both R31 and Z51 found the gun.

But its report admitted that there was no trace of Mark on the gun, and Mark was right handed and had sustained a heavy wound on his right biceps.

So how did the gun get there?

There are also questions about the police conduct in the days leading up to the killing.

Officers for Operation Trident, the Metropolitan Police’s firearms squad, knew of the alleged plan to hand over a gun the day before the event.

Why did they not intervene beforehand?

Mark’s family need answers—but neither the Met nor the IPCC are willing to give them.

Tottenham Remembers

3pm, 6 August, Willan Road, Broadwater Farm, London N17

IN BRIEF

Train workers rail against decision

AROUND 250 senior maintenance engineers at Network Rail are balloting for strikes in a row over payments for out of hours on call standby duties, the TSSA union has said.

The ballot closes on 15 August. A vote to strike could lead to disruption and delays by the end of August.

Bosses' cuts are Virgin on ridiculous

A BALLOT of 2,000 RMT union members on Virgin Trains East Coast (VTEC) ends on Tuesday of next week. The ballot is over a threat to jobs, working conditions and safety.

VTEC is run by Virgin and Stagecoach. The union said the firms want to hack away at workers' conditions.

It said bosses have refused to give assurances on protecting pay rates, staffing levels, safety and sticking to existing agreements.

Insurance workers ballot to save jobs

WORKERS AT insurance firm Prudential in Reading are balloting for strikes against the outsourcing of around 75 jobs to Mumbai in India.

They are members of the Unite union.

Bosses say outsourcing back office work on annuities will save £2 million. But they have enough cash to splash on high salaries for four newly appointed executives.

Unite blasts Lloyds over more job cuts

LLOYDS TSB has announced the closure of 200 branches, putting 3,000 jobs at risk.

The Unite union has demanded job guarantees from the bank. The move follows 9,000 job losses in 2014 after the closure of another 200 branches.

Unite national officer Rob MacGregor said, "This grim news of yet more job losses and branch closures will send a shiver down the spine of Lloyds employees".

Shop fitters slam bosses' pay offer

OVER 40 shop fitters working at HMY Radford in Burnopfield, Newcastle, have slammed a "bizarre" new pay offer.

The offer gives workers a 25 pence an hour increase and a reduced working week until 16 December.

But the changes would be reversed in January. The workers are Unite union members. They struck over pay for 24 hours last month.

Unite regional officer Mark Sanderson said, "Workers are quite rightly angry at what they first thought was a mistake on the company's behalf."

LGBT+

'We are the gays and we don't like May' chant Norwich Pride marchers

SEVERAL thousand people joined this year's Pride march in Norwich last Saturday. It was bigger, younger and more political than in previous years.

An anti-racist bloc chanted, "Black and white, straight and queer, refugees are welcome here."

Other popular chants were, "We are the gays and we don't like May" and, "Tories out, Corbyn in".

Some 300 people attended a question time event with panellists including shadow defence secretary Clive Lewis and Nicola Field of Lesbians and Gays Support the Miners.

Over £400 was collected for refugees in Calais. **Sue Caldwell**



A SECTION of the march in Norwich

PICTURE: SAMI HILLYER

DEFENDING THE NHS

Trade unionists out to stop closure of clinic

by MARY LITTLEFIELD

PROTESTERS IN Beccles, Suffolk, lobbied a meeting of the local Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) on Friday of last week.

The CCG has taken the decision to close Greyfriars walk-in NHS clinic.

Over 5,000 patients will have to be transferred to other GPs, putting extra pressure on already stretched local surgeries.

Members of the Unite and GMB unions, Great Yarmouth Trades Council and the People's Assembly attended the demonstration.

Greyfriars is a well used and



Protesting against the Clinical Commissioning Group

recently refurbished centre.

A petition from thousands of residents in Great Yarmouth was handed in at the meeting.

Protesters were disappointed that there was no presence from the biggest

health union Unison. Other lobbies over NHS cuts in the area have made the point that Unison does not seem to be engaging in the struggle to stop the Tories dismantling our services.

EDUCATION

Demo to demand end of market in education

A NATIONAL demonstration to defend education will take place in central London on Saturday 19 November.

The UCU and NUS unions confirmed the date of the protest last week.

The march, United for Education, will demand free, accessible and quality further and higher education and an end to marketisation.

It comes after MPs voted in support of the Higher Education and Research Bill last month. The bill will increase university tuition fees and open up education to for-profit providers.

There will be coordinated

protests to defend education across the world on the day, including in France, Canada and South Africa.

UCU general secretary Sally Hunt said government attacks risked "narrowing choices for students". NUS president Malia Bouattia denounced the government's "deeply risky ideologically-led market experiment in further and higher education".

She added, "We cannot put up with this. Students are clear that enough is enough, and will be marching for a positive alternative, United for Education."

Sadie Robinson

CLEANERS

Wood Street workers stay out for colleagues' jobs

STRIKING CLEANERS and their supporters protested outside the 100 Wood Street corporate offices in the City of London financial district last Wednesday.

They are demanding the reinstatement of two of their colleagues.

Bosses at Thames Cleaning Ltd have already given in to one of their two demands—the London Living Wage of £9.40 an hour. They are now hoping the United Voices of the World (UVW) union members will give up.

But Petros Elias, UVW general secretary, said that the Living Wage doesn't mean anything if you don't have a job.

"The cleaners are staying out until the others get their jobs back," he said.

Some 50 people marched from 100 Wood Street to real estate giant CBRE's

headquarters near St Paul's Cathedral.

Striker Victor said, "We will never bow down to you, we will carry on until the end. What I have in my hand is a mop—it is a mop of war."

"We workers have dignity and the mop represents this."

CBRE, which manages 100 Wood Street, outsourced cleaning to Thames Cleaning, who sacked two workers after taking the contract.

Juan, one of the sacked workers, said that Thames had treated them like the rubbish they put in the bins.

"We need to win reinstatement for myself and my colleague Hector," he said. "We will carry on this fight for as long as it takes."

"CBRE should be ashamed."

●Donate to the strike fund at uvwunion.org.uk/emergency-appeal

STOCKPORT

ACTIVISTS protested outside Stepping Hill hospital in Stockport on Monday.

Stockport NHS Watch campaigners oppose plans to close a 22-bed surgical ward and a further eight trauma and orthopaedic beds by October.

This will lead to the loss of up to 400 jobs.

Further protests are planned outside the hospital every Monday at 8am.

A protest is planned at the entrance to the Merseyway Shopping Centre from 10.30am this Saturday.

●stockportnhswatch.co.uk

SUSSEX

THE GMB union is carrying out a consultative ballot of health workers in Sussex over unpaid back pay.

Subcontractor Coperforma took over passenger transport

services in Sussex on 1 April after the previous contractor went into administration.

Outsourcers Docklands Medical Services and Coperforma promised to

honour all the outstanding liabilities.

But the workers have still not been paid some £45,000 in overtime and unsocial hours pay.



Campaigners outside Stepping Hill hospital

BUS WORKERS

Walkouts can drive pay message home

by DAVE SEWELL

BUS DRIVERS in Weymouth, Dorset, plan a week-long strike from next Monday.

Supporters, including the trades' council and several local councillors, are set to join them on the picket line.

The Unite union members have been taking action for two months to demand pay parity with workers in nearby Yeovil.

The Weymouth workers are the lowest paid drivers in First Group.

The union called off strikes planned for this week after bosses threatened a legal challenge to its strike notice.

Stopped

Since the dispute began bosses have stopped workers paying their union subs through a weekly "check off" from their wages.

The union is signing members up on direct debit, but bosses claim this invalidates a strike notice that still refers to check-off.

Tory trade union legislation gives bosses too much power to get strikes ruled out on technicalities, but they are rarely put to the test.

Their main purpose is to get unions to call strikes off in the face of legal threats. Defying them can beat them—and this week's action should have gone ahead.

ON THE picket line last month

But workers aren't letting this setback put them into reverse gear.

They're pressing ahead against First Hampshire, Dorset and Berkshire managing director Marc Reddy and his wage clampdown.

They plan to keep fighting. One driver told Socialist Worker, "Everything Marc Reddy has done is only making people more angry."

This follows letters to

workers on sick leave threatening them with loss of sick pay.

Bosses have also run a scabbing operation that costs more than meeting the workers' demands.

Weymouth is a small depot, but First bosses fear that if the drivers win it could set a precedent for other pay fights around its network.

That's why it's vital to keep up the pressure.

● Send messages of support through Dorchester, Weymouth and Portland Trades Union Council, to timtucouncil@talktalk.net.

Send cheques payable to Unite branch SW/8161 to Unite the union, Bournemouth, 238 Holdenhurst Road, Bournemouth BH8 8EG. Join the picket line—Monday 8 August, 8.15am, Weymouth bus depot, King Street entrance, Weymouth DT4 7BH

MIGRANT WORKERS

>> continued from page 20

his job if the man escaped.

But the Home Office's horror and talk of reform is unconvincing.

It didn't release the report, and even refused a Freedom of Information request by detainees' charity Medical Justice on the grounds that the report would distress the man's family.

It took an appeal and a tribunal to get the report out. While the Home Office prevaricated another man died in similar circumstances.

Alois Dvorzac, who had dementia, died in shackles in February 2013. He was a Canadian citizen on his way to his native Slovenia, hoping to see his daughter one last time before he died.

Any restrictions on restraining detainees in hospital would be overdue and welcome.

But the whole detention system is unjust and brutal and should be abolished.



■ THE Tories successfully sued this week to make it harder for unaccompanied refugee children in Calais to join relatives in Britain.

The Court of Appeal ruled in favour of a government appeal against a landmark ruling earlier this year that saw four Syrians allowed into Britain.

Not one child had at that time made it under the existing system. Though under political pressure it has now brought 50 across.

The four can stay but their route is closed to others in hardship and danger.

FOOD WORKERS



A meeting recruiting Samworth workers to the union

Samworth Brothers food bosses take on the union

by ALISTAIR FARROW

BOSSSES AT Samworth Brothers' food factory in Leicester have sent a letter to workers in an attempt to stop them from joining the Bfawu union.

Bfawu has also said that bosses are taking round a petition for workers to sign.

The petition says that workers have no intention of joining a union.

Recognition

Bfawu said that it believes bosses will then use this as evidence to argue that less than 50 percent of workers want to join the union.

This would be a blow for union recognition in the eyes of the Central Arbitration Committee.

This body decides whether a union has to be recognised.

Bfawu activist Kumaran Bose worked at Samworth Brothers.

He was sacked for trying to build the union.

The bosses' latest attack is part of their ongoing

campaign against union rights.

● Go to the Facebook page Reinstat Kumaran Bose

■ RF BROOKES food factory workers and their supporters held a protest in Cardiff last Saturday.

They were drawing attention to a pay deal that leaves them worse off.

The deal was brought in after bosses at the Newport factory in South Wales made changes to shift allowances in response to the Tories' "Living Wage".

The Bfawu union members, who struck over the proposed deal in May, held the protest outside M&S.

The retailer stocks food produced at the RF Brookes factory.

Protesters were trying to get customers at the store to boycott products made at the factory.

Gary Johnston from Bfawu said that workers "are not prepared to see their standard of living reduced by the greed for profits".

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

TAs boosted by Corbyn

TEACHING assistants (TAs) in Durham fighting the Labour council's plans to slash their pay by 23 percent received a boost from Labour Party leader Jeremy Corbyn last week.

The TAs met Corbyn at the Durham Miners' Gala last month. Hundreds of them had mobilised for the event to build their campaign.

Corbyn released a statement pledging "full support" for their fight. While it stopped short of directly criticising the Labour council it will increase the pressure on it.

He said he "will be standing shoulder to shoulder with Unison's

campaign to end the imposition of term time only pay."

School support staff such as TAs have no national agreement.

At Unison's annual conference in June delegates passed policy to fight for an end to term time pay in schools.

Around 700 TAs protested at the council's headquarters in Durham last week.

Many want their Unison union to bring them out on strike early in the new term but feel frustrated at the lack of information coming from the officials.

The union should ballot them now.

GLASGOW

Council braced for strikes

AROUND 130 workers at Community Safety Glasgow (CSG) are set to ballot for strikes in a dispute over unsocial hours payments.

The workers are members of the Unison, Unite and GMB unions.

CSG is owned by the Labour-run Glasgow City Council.

Their ballot follows an average nine to one vote for

action in consultative ballots across the unions.

Meanwhile school janitors employed by another "arms length" council firm, Cordia, met last Sunday to discuss the next steps in their long-running campaign over pay.

The Unison members were expected to announce more action soon in the new school term.

Raymie Kiernan

JOURNALISTS

NUJ JOURNALISTS' union members working for Trinity Mirror group newspapers in Newcastle, North Wales and Liverpool took industrial action on Thursday and Friday of last week.

They are fighting against

redundancies and increasing workloads. The Trinity Mirror group bosses are pushing through a "restructuring".

Their industrial action involved holding two-hour long union branch meetings during work time.

MIGRANT PAY STRIKE WINS

Bosses hope discrimination will divide us, but a successful strike of migrant workers at Fawley refinery was an important victory, writes **Dave Sewell**

BOSSES USE discrimination against migrants as a weapon against workers. But this summer they have met with resistance, including a successful strike by migrant workers.

Hundreds of people protested outside a central London branch of George Osborne's preferred burger restaurant Byron on Monday. It was organised by the Unite union.

Byron's bosses had colluded with the Home Office in rounding up migrant employees on the pretence of a training day.

Some 35 workers—from Albania, Brazil, Mexico, Nepal and Egypt—were detained and at least 25 have been deported so far.

One deported chef told the protest in a written statement, "It made me feel like I never had before. My heart was completely broken about everything."

The deportees included a worker whose partner was pregnant and who never got to say goodbye.

The company says it was only following the law, but protester Sasha told Socialist Worker, "There are a lot of things in history that have been legal but weren't right."

Disgraceful

She added, "It's disgraceful how they profited off these people and then basically threw them away".

Protesters chanted, "No one is illegal" and, "How do you like your burgers? Without deportations!"

Marta, a cleaner from Ecuador, told Socialist Worker, "What this company has done is completely unjust."

The outcry over Byron followed a victory for migrant workers at Esso's Fawley oil refinery near Southampton.

The Unite union members have won equal pay from contractor Nico after striking



ON THE protest at Byron Burger in London on Monday

PICTURE: GUY SMALLMAN

last month. They called off a second planned 24-hour walkout last week after bosses agreed to meet their demands.

The workers, mainly Italian and Bulgarian migrants, will now receive £125 a day like the site's other workers and

Nico employees elsewhere.

They had previously been on less than half this rate—£48 for a ten hour day.

Unite regional officer Malcolm Bonnett told Socialist Worker, "We got a result there—the strike was

the key." The strike involved around 20 specialist workers. Their 160 percent pay rise will be backdated to last September and their union will be recognised for collective bargaining.

Though a small dispute,

the strike is a warning to other bosses who discriminate against migrant workers.

Malcolm called it a "victory for fairness in the workplace and pay parity".

He said, "A combination of our members' solidarity, support from other Fawley workers and the media attention all contributed to breaking the logjam."

He added, "I'd like to think that other construction companies would now look again before taking workers on terms that are less favourable."

Scapegoating

Politicians such as Labour leadership contender Owen Smith (see page 4) say immigration pushes down wages.

Even research published by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation last week that largely refutes scapegoating of migrants says there is some limited truth to this.

But where wages are brought down it's not because migrants are here but because they can be discriminated against.

And as Fawley and other struggles have shown, migrant workers' battles benefit the whole working class.

Many protesters on Monday pointed the finger at Theresa May, whose time as home secretary was spent pushing through draconian anti-immigration policies.

Green Party deputy leader Amelia Womack told Socialist Worker, "This is about two issues—a company that doesn't treat its workers with dignity and respect, but also the government's Immigration Act that turns burger bars into border guards."

Trade unionist John added, "What we need is an amnesty for all migrants—no-one should be declared illegal."

"If capital can go all over the world in search of profit, why can't workers go where they need in search of work?"

DETENTION

Centre death slammed

A SERIOUSLY ill 43 year old man died handcuffed to his hospital bed because immigration detention officers feared he would escape.

He had been detained because of his immigration status and was not deemed a risk to the public.

He was taken into Harmondsworth detention centre near Heathrow in August 2012, where he developed a heart condition. He had been due for heart surgery when he died in November 2012.

A Home Office report, finally published last week

Theresa May

after long resistance, was damning.

It pointed to "a serious breakdown in communication under the current detention reporting process" and called for guidance on restraining detainees who need hospital treatment.

One Home Office official said she had been horrified to learn that the man was handcuffed.

Harmondsworth, near Heathrow, is run by private contractors GEO who face a £10,000 fine if anyone escapes.

The report said this was likely to lead to a "cautious approach" to removing cuffs.

One officer interviewed in the report said he was afraid of losing

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